Oxfordshire Guardian

Bicester and surrounding villages

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, March 29 - Wednesday, April 4, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

New report reveals cost of housing

Page 13

Ideas for some eggciting Easter family fun

Out&About

New U's boss excited by challenge

Sport

Horton's future healthy

A&E and paediatrics to stay Maternity plan to be reviewed

By George Welch

THE future of key services at the Horton General Hospital could be secured today as health bosses meet to decide on the fate of the Banbury facility.

Health provider Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group last week published a paper which advocates scrapping the second phase of a controversial consultation into the county's health services.

The Oxfordshire Transformation Update document, recommended for approval at the board meeting, would also confirm the hospital's A&E department and paediatric services are no longer under threat.

The number of midwife-led units across the county would also not be changed under the proposals.

In light of "almost universal" opposition to phase one of the consultation, carried out over three months from January last year, health chiefs said they would approach phase two "in a very different manner".

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis said she was "thrilled" by the OCCG's recommendations and urged the board to approve the proposals.

"The OCCG is finally listening to all of us in north Oxfordshire," she said.

"For too long now, the future of acute services at the Horton has been unclear. We now have the answers we have been looking for [and] the uncertainty can be put to rest."

The Conservative added: "The decision to abandon phase two is long overdue. Ensuring local residents feel that they have a genuine voice when it comes to the future of their health services, including community hospitals, is at the heart of any good consultation exercise."

Campaigners have been pushing to keep services at the hospital and reverse a downgrade in its maternity unit agreed last year.

Mrs Prentis believes that, acting on the advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, the OCCG finally recognises that further work should include the views of mothers, families and staff, dependencies between services and the needs of those in the Horton's catchment area.

Campaign group Keep the Horton General also welcomed the recommendations but wanted more information about how the public would be consulted before members claimed victory.

The group said in a statement: "KTHG welcomes the OCCG paper as far as it goes but before we claim victory we want to see it accepted by the board. In particular how they intend to proceed in terms of obstetrics and how they intend to accommodate the views of the public."

The OCCG statement, made last Thursday, said the paper "seeks approval for the way forward that will allow a new approach to engaging people in localities on the issues that affect them locally".

It added: "If agreed, this would also mean no changes to A&E or paediatrics at the Horton or to the number of midwife led units across Oxfordshire."

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Health trust fined £2m over two deaths in care

By George Welch

THE NHS trust responsible for the drowning of teenager Connor Sparrowhawk has been fined £2million.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust admitted "systemic failures" and pleaded guilty last year to breaching health and safety laws.

It was also sentenced for health and safety breaches in relation to the death of Teresa Colvin in Hampshire at the same Oxford Crown Court hearing on Monday.

Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith fined the trust £1.05m for Connor's death and £950,000 for Mrs Colvin's.

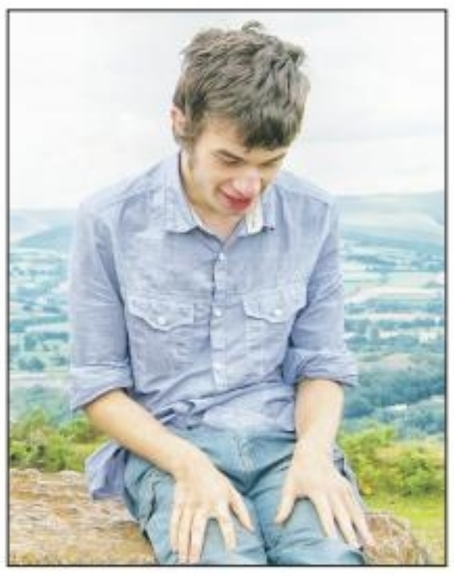
Passing sentence at Oxford Crown Court, he said each death was an "unnecessary human tragedy".

He added that Connor's mother, Dr Sara Ryan, had endured "utterly unjustifiable criticism as she pursued her Justice for LB campaign".

Connor, 18, was found dead at Southern Health's Slade House, Headington, in 2013 after suffering an epileptic seizure when left alone in a bath.

His mum said in a statement after the sentencing: "No one should die a preventable death in the care of the state.

"Families should not have to fight for answers and accountability. They should not have to raise funds for legal representation at a time of unspeakable grief and pain.



Connor Sparrowhawk drowned in a bath at Slade House in Headington in 2013

"Southern Health dug deep into publicly funded pockets and armed itself with a range of legal weaponry and dirty tricks.

"The #JusticeforLB campaign has shone a light on systemic failings in the care of learning disabled people.

"We have collectively and effectively revealed weaknesses in regulatory practices, a disregard for the lives and deaths of certain people and the limitations of work by large established charities in this area."

Southern Health acknowledged both deaths were "entirely preventable" and were "a matter of significant regret" it did not address its failures quicker.

Chief executive Dr Nick Broughton, who was not in charge at the time of the deaths, said he wanted to "apologise unreservedly".

The judge said there was no solid evidence to demonstrate that a fine would impact public services so the trust, which has a budget deficit of around £1.69m, has two months to pay the fine.

Dr Ryan added: "I'm left thinking if Connor was here now, in the shadow of Oxford Crown Court and St Aldate's police station, he would repeatedly ask 'why mum?'

"I'd reply 'I don't know matey but we've done you proud'."

Mrs Colvin died at Southampton General Hospital in April 2012 after she was found unconscious at Woodhaven Adult Mental Health Hospital.

"The JusticeforLB campaign has shone a light on systematic failings in the care of learning disabled people"

"No one should die a preventable death in the care of the state"

Connor Sparrowhawk's mother Sara Ryan

InBrief

Window cleaning burglars thwarted

TWO suspected burglars were frightened off by an elderly woman's son and daughter-in-law after they offered to 'clean her jewellery' with window cleaning solution.

The 75-year-old woman was at home in Donnington Bridge Road on Wednesday afternoon last week when a man came to her flat asking if he could fill up a plastic spray bottle that he was using to clean windows.

She let the man in and he used water in the kitchen. He sprayed her windows with the substance and told her to place a necklace in the sink so it could also be sprayed.

The man then left and returned with another man and they both had a look around the property.

The pair fled when the woman's son and daughter-in-law challenged them about what they were doing.

Nothing was stolen in the incident.

Police described one of the offenders as a white man, with a scruffy beard, and with an Irish accent. He was wearing a dark bobble hat and was holding a spray pump bottle.

The second offender was a white man, of stocky build, who was aged in his forties and 5ft 7ins tall.

Contact police on 101 quoting 43180086689 with information.

£1.8m for potholes

OXFORDSHIRE has been given £1.8million to help repair roads affected by recent bad weather.

The county council said it needs more money from the Department for Transport to fully rectify issues caused by the damage.

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Brexit protesters ask 'is it worth it?'

CAMPAIGNERS protested against Brexit during a weekend-long event in Oxford marking the anniversary of the UK government's decision to leave the EU.

Oxford for Europe held the public event in Broad Street on Friday to kick-start a series of regional anti-Brexit rallies and marches around the country.

Labour peer Andrew Adonis and former editor-in-chief of the Observer Will Hutton spoke at the open-air public rally in favour of overturning the Brexit vote.

Mr Hutton said the campaigners would "win the argument" by recognising many of the people who voted for Brexit did so "as an act of economic and social protest".

"Too many arts of our country have been badly neglected and it's no accident that two thirds of people who earned less than £20,000 a year voted Brexit," he said.

"They had nothing to lose and hoped for something better."

Oxford for Europe campaigners gathered outside the Sheldonian Theatre as part of series of national marches and rallies

Lord Adonis said: "We are English, we are British and we are European and we're proud of it.

"We are not giving up, we can win this, there is absolutely no reason why Brexit has to happen."

The 'is it worth it?' event was part of a national campaign to stop Brexit through a new people's vote.

Thieves flee empty handed in eighth ram raid

RAM raiders used axes and crowbars to try to steal a cash machine from a Didcot supermarket.

The raiders fled the Aldi store on Broadway when they realised staff members were inside.

The gang smashed a grey 4x4 into the store at about 2.30am.

Nothing was taken and no one was injured but damage was caused to the shop.

This is the eighth ram raid to take place in the county in recent months. Police are yet to confirm whether the incidents are linked.

Contact police on 101 with any information.

Family runs together for Austin

Mum and daughters raising funds for cousin with muscular dystrophy

By George Welch

A RUNNING fanatic is lacing up her trainers once more to take on another challenge for a charity close to her family's heart – and this time she has roped in her mum and sister.

Woodstock fitness instructor Lizzie Holifield will run alongside mum Sarah Masters, 66, and sibling Lucy Okoli, 32, from London, to run the Blenheim 7k on April 29.

The 29-year-old has worked up a sweat at the Oxford Town and Gown 10k and the Brighton Marathon over the last couple of years, raising more than £2,000 for Duchenne charity, Harrison's Fund.

The charity supported Lizzie's family after her husband's second cousin, Austin, was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a rare genetic condition that causes the muscles to waste away, as a two year old in 2015.

Lizzie said the diagnosis was 'devastating' to the family.

"Duchenne is such a cruel disease and taking part in all these physical challenges over the years has been my way of saying thank you to the charity for the support they've given to Austin's family. We will all be running our hearts and lungs out on the day to raise as much money as possible for this fantastic cause."

Lizzie Holifield, right, will be joined by sister Lucy Okoli and mum Sarah Masters for the Blenheim run to raise cash for Harrison's Fund which has supported her husband's second cousin Austin who was diagnosed with the disease

Harrison's Fund helps fund work towards finding a cure for Duchenne.

Visit tinyurl.com/y79ayran to support the run.

Former GP surgery to become offices for healthcare group

A FORMER GP surgery building in Bicester that has been empty for 18 months will be converted into offices.

The North Bicester Surgery building in Bure Park will be turned into offices for not-for-profit healthcare group Principal Media Limited.

Approval was given to the plans last week and will involve around 80 per cent of the building used as the group's headquarters.

A further 20 per cent of the space has been reserved for potential use by other health services, such as community healthcare professionals, GPs, physiotherapists.

The building has lain empty for more than 18 months after the surgery closed due to financial difficulties.

Bicester North and Caversfield district councillor Lynn Pratt, who worked at the surgery for more than a decade, said she was "pleased" to see the building in use again.

She said: "It was a great pity that North Bicester Surgery had to close, meaning that some 4,500 patients had to re-register with other surgeries.

"This was hard for the elderly and people without transport who had to get to other surgeries further away from where they live.

"I am however pleased that after two years the building is to come back into use, after standing empty."

InBrief

Collision death

A 67-year-old man died in a crash between a car and a lorry near Bicester.

A green Skoda Superb and a red Scania P360 lorry collided at about 8am on Thursday last week on the A41 at the junction with Station Road in Blackthorn, near Bicester.

The Skoda driver was treated by paramedics but died at the scene. The driver of the lorry was not injured.

Call police on 101 quoting reference 4318008746 with information and dashcam footage.

Two dead in crash

TWO men have died following a crash on the A4260 Oxford Road near Deddington.

A Toyota Auris collided with a Ford Focus shortly after 9.30am on Thursday last week.

The Toyota driver, a man in his thirties from Reading, was confirmed dead at the scene.

The Ford driver, a man in his eighties from Oxfordshire, died later in hospital, police revealed on Sunday.

Call police on 101 if you have any information which may help.

Bin collections

WEST Oxfordshire residents are reminded that bin collection days will be a day later than usual due to the Easter holidays.

There will be a collection tomorrow (Good Friday) and normal collections will start again on April 9.

Collections in Cherwell will remain unaffected.

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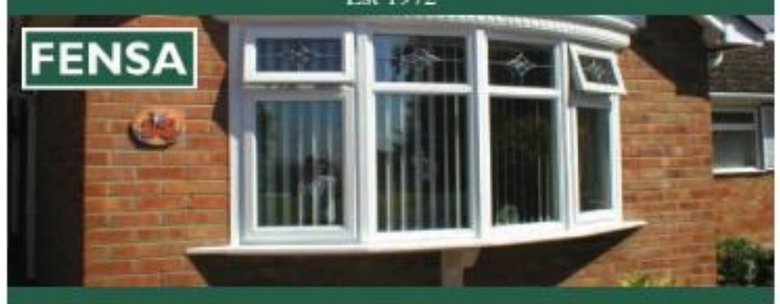

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Pupils make strides in getting fit and active on walk to school

By George Welch

SCHOOLCHILDREN took to the streets last week to show how an innovative new scheme is helping more of them to get active on the school run.

Pupils, parents and teachers from Leafield C of E Primary School, between Witney and the Wychwoods, walked to class as part of a project aiming to cut out the impact of idling cars near schools.

An 'incredible' turnout featured the vast majority of Leafield's 98 pupils taking part in the walk on Thursday last week.

The Park and Stride scheme encourages parents to park away from the school gates and walk the last part of the journey, helping to reduce the number of cars around the school.

Living Streets, an everyday walking charity, helped the school introduce Park and Stride alongside WOW – the school's year-round walk to school challenge.

Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles, cabinet member for public health and education at Oxfordshire County Council, joined families to walk from Leafield Village Hall, where they met Living Streets mascot Strider, to the school.

She said: "Leafield is a great example of how Park and Stride can be used effectively to increase walking rates. Park and Stride is ideal for a more rural school such as Leafield where families may be more likely to drive to get to school, but still want to enjoy the benefits of walking to school."

WOW rewards children who walk to school at least once a week with collectable badges each month.

Twenty-one schools across Oxfordshire have signed up to take part in WOW since the beginning of this academic year and are already starting to see results.

When Leafield Primary School started WOW, 76 per cent of their journeys were active but it is now up to 84 per cent, with 29 per cent of those being families using the Park and Stride.

Julia Crear, from Living Streets, said: "It's fantastic to see the impact WOW and Park and Stride is having at Leafield Primary School – it's only right that we're celebrating the steps the children here have made."

Families and Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles get active on the walk to school while pupils who walk, scoot or cycle to school are rewarded with WOW badges

Cafe honoured for support for mums

A BANBURY café has been praised for its support of breastfeeding mums.

Little Amsterdam Café, in North Bar Street, which is best known for its Dutch inspired dishes and pancakes, won silver in the Lansinoh Feed with Confidence Awards 2017.

The scheme aims to highlight the best breastfeeding places in the UK, recognising public areas such as cafes and shops where breastfeeding is encouraged, and mothers are made to feel comfortable.

The owner of Little Amsterdam, which offers mothers complimentary tea and water to rehydrate, said she hopes the award would help 'set the standard for other places.'

Ilja Abbattista added: "We are delighted to have won an award that recognises that we have created a welcoming space which makes breastfeeding mums feel comfortable and welcome."

Lisa Craven, UK marketing manager at Lansinoh, said: "We have had an amazingly positive response from the British public in the first Feed with Confidence Awards and we're excited to launch the 2018 awards later in the year.

"The more we encourage openness and acceptance within society, the more confident mums will become – and that's good news for everyone."

Little Amsterdam opened in December 2014 and has won a series of awards, including the national 'Good Food Award'.

Beat fatbergs and dispose of cooking oil

WEST Oxfordshire residents are again being urged to recycle their cooking oil as the battle with problematic fatbergs continues.

The district council is reminding people that the oil can be collected as part of their household recycling service.

Fatbergs are putrid fatty masses that develop in sewers when cooking oils, fats and unflushable items such as sanitary products mix together and solidify.

Last year Thames Water revealed that it clears at least three major blockages from Witney's sewers every fortnight – dubbing the town a fatberg hotspot – and the issue remains a sticky matter for the authorities.

The council is urging people to put used cooking oil out for the bin men to avoid build up of fat

West Oxfordshire District Council leader James Mills said: "Fatbergs can block sewers and cause disruption and so it is important to avoid pouring oil down the sink.

"In west Oxfordshire we have for many years been collecting used cooking oil; it is part of our weekly household food waste service and it is recycled and used for energy."

Residents should pour cooled oil into a clear plastic bottle and put it out next to recycling boxes or the food waste caddy on collection days.

Thames Water is running a 'Bin it – don't block it' campaign to raise awareness of the problems caused by disposing of cooking oil, wet wipes, cotton buds, nappies and sanitary products in drains and sewers.

InBrief

New bakery opens

AN artisan bakery is bringing a taste of the south west to Bicester with award-winning traditional goods.

The new Warrens Bakery opened yesterday (Wednesday) in Pioneer Square, creating eight jobs.

Marketing manager Rachel Little said Bicester makes "a great addition to the brand" which was established in 1860 and claims to be the oldest bakery in Cornwall.

Thieves fail in bid

THIEVES tried to break into the Co-Op on Chatsworth Drive, Banbury at about 3am on Friday.

Two offenders failed to force open the shutters and fled the scene, crossing at The Cock Horse pub into the children's park between Melbourne Close and Longleat Close.

Both offenders were wearing black and are of slim build.

Call police on 101 with information.

Pool to be drained

A POOL at Witney's Windrush Leisure Centre will be drained as a precaution after "a small number of users" developed a rash or itching.

Operator Better Leisure said tests showed chlorine and bacteria levels to be "normal", despite the reports, but, it was decided to drain the water and have it refilled by specialist contractors before it is reopened to the public by Saturday.

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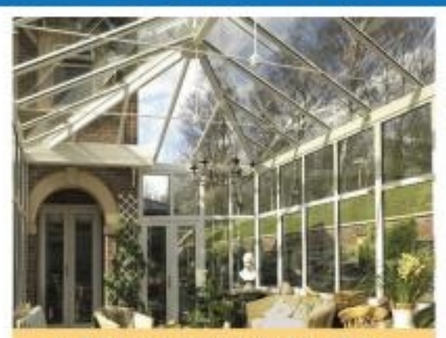

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News

Is that a quaffle I see before me?

THE finest seekers, chasers and beaters flew into Oxford to take part in the Harry Potter-inspired British Quidditch Cup.

Last year's winners Velociraptors retained their title by beating Warwick 70-30 at Oxford Brookes University's Botley Campus on Sunday after catching the snitch to end the game.

Quidditch UK president Mel Piper said the cup was the "most competitive yet".

Jay Holmes, who plays for the Velociraptors, said: "People see Raptors as a faceless machine, but I think we've shown that we have the biggest heart."

Oxford hosted the first British Quidditch Cup in 2013 where just 16 teams competed.

Since then, the sport has grown in popularity to now have more than 800 players and 40 active teams in the UK.

The fifth annual competition on Sunday had 32 teams - including Oxford Quidditch Club - competing from across the country.

There is also a Quidditch World Cup, to be held in Florence, Italy, in June, which will feature Team UK competing against other international sides in the style of the boy wizard and friends - without the flying.

Market traders going electric

A GOVERNMENT grant of nearly £200,000 will help prepare Covered Market traders go electric ahead of the world's first Zero Emission Zone from 2020.

The money will be used to buy two electric light goods vehicles and three cargo bikes, as well as the installation of three electric vehicle charging points for traders.

Deliveries will also become greener and more efficient with a new all-hours storage space. Currently deliveries can only take place during the day, when the market is open.

Oxford City Council leader Susan Brown said: "We have been raising our concerns about Oxford city centre's toxic and illegal levels of air pollution for some time.

"It is vital for the health of those who live, work and visit the city that we tackle this issue – and we are delighted to have secured funding from government to help us do so."

The £192,500 of funding has come from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Air Quality Grant.

The money will also fund a study of the deliveries in and out of the Covered Market, including the time, frequency and quantity of deliveries and the types of vehicles used.

The Covered Market is currently undergoing a £1.6m redevelopment over the next four years.

The ZEZ, which is being jointly proposed by the city council and Oxfordshire County Council, would ban pollution-emitting vehicles from the city centre in phases from 2020.

Force cuts put police dogs under threat

POLICE dogs could be axed as forces consider cuts to make savings.

Up to 60 officers and their canine companions from the joint Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary dog section face severe cut backs as plans to make reductions are considered.

Six sergeants and 54 constables in the unit have at least one general purpose dog.

Some officers also have a second specially trained dog in areas such as explosive search, victim recovery and specialist search skills.

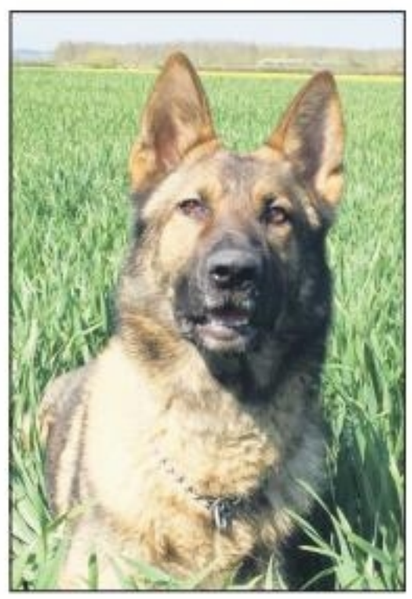
A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said it was "not in any position to confirm any decision".

"The JOU Operations Management is engaging with dog section staff, stakeholders in the organisation and staff associations to review and develop a new model for the unit.

"In the Thames Valley we have more dog handlers and dogs than other equivalent forces and the Chief Constable Francis Habgood has stated a preference that any reductions be achieved on the basis of natural attrition, such as retirement or officer moving to another role within the force or service."

In February, the chief constable also told the mounted section the force could not assure its long-term future.

An online petition to save the mounted section has reached more than 1,200 signatures since it was launched.



Police dog Ace enjoys a rest after thwarting a burglar
Picture: *Hants Police Dogs*

Velociraptors (in pink) retained their title
Pictures: *Jessica Cornelius*

A guide to Quidditch

- A match has two teams of seven players aiming to score as many points as they can
- Each player must play with a broom between their legs
- A team consists of one keeper, three chasers, two beaters and a seeker
- Points are available for throwing the quaffle through the opposing team's hoops and for catching the snitch, which ends the game
- A Quidditch match uses three types of ball - the quaffle, the snitch, and bludgers - which are thrown at opposing players to knock them out of the game

Travellers leave park and ride site

TRAVELLERS who took up occupation of the Redbridge Park and Ride on March 10 have now left.

A possession order was granted to remove around 36 travellers' caravans on Monday after Oxford City Council began legal proceedings as soon as the travellers moved in earlier in the month.

The council is now clearing the site of rubbish and expects it to be returned to normal as shortly.

Speaking before the order was granted, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth said: "The council has been working as fast as the court system will allow to bring this situation to a conclusion.

"It is extremely frustrating that, despite having started legal proceedings as soon as the travellers moved onto Redbridge, it has taken two weeks to get this far.

"I now look forward to the warrant for possession being served quickly so that this occupation can be ended."

The council remains in close communication with Thames Valley Police regarding the occupation with a view to returning the situation to normal.

Redbridge Park and Ride and the waiting room and toilet facilities remain open to the public and the bus services are operating normally.

Picture: *TVP*

Picture: *SCAS*

Four-mile tailback after lorry's salt spillage

ALL three southbound lanes on the M40 between Junctions 9 Bicester and 8 Oxford Services were closed for more than seven hours on Monday after a lorry overturned.

The contents of the lorry, 28.5 tonnes of rock salt, spilled on the carriageway at around 11am and the road remained closed until 6pm as recovery work was carried out.

Highways England said the closure caused four miles of queuing traffic.

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News

Crackdown on drugs scourge

By Owen Hughes

A JOINT taskforce has been set up in Oxford to crackdown on the city's "drugs scourge".

Oxford City Council and Thames Valley Police will launch the taskforce next month to "reclaim the streets" from the city's open drugs market.

The unit, based at St Aldate's police station, will comprise a dedicated problem solving post, police officer and two police community support officers.

The problem solving post is funded through a £45,000 investment from the Oxford Community Safety Partnership, while Oxford City Council has invested £70,000 into the PCSOs.

Thames Valley Police will fund the dedicated officer using existing budgets.

The taskforce will give a better understanding of the drugs market in Oxford and more police will be on patrol in particular in drug hotspots.

City councillor Tom Hayes said: "People are now openly dealing and taking hard drugs in broad daylight and putting the safety of Oxford residents at risk by discarding used needles in the street.

"We will not tolerate this. We have hit back with high-visibility patrols, with dozens of arrests and other legal measures, and by reclaiming the streets for Oxford residents.

"We have invested funding to pay for two new PCSOs to patrol Oxford's drug hotspots and, with Thames Valley Police, secured funding and set up this new taskforce to fight this drugs scourge – but also to protect vulnerable people from being exploited by organised crime groups in Oxford."

The number of discarded needles found in public places has increased in recent months, with both local dealers and organised crime groups from other cities operating in Oxford.

Drug recovery service Turning Point supports the taskforce in its work to engage drug users in treatment.

Manager Andy Symons said the number of drug-related deaths in Oxford is "very concerning".

Between 2014 and 2016, there were 27 deaths related to drugs misuse in Oxford equating to 6.5 deaths for every 100,000 residents – above the average across England of 4.2.

Superintendent Joe Kidman welcomed the new taskforce as a "significant step forward," adding: "Drug dealers prey on and exploit some of the most vulnerable in our community; we do not want these people in our city."

Richard Venables, right, dressed as Noddy with Chris Wood at the Oxford Town and Gown run in 2011

High Sheriff's big challenge

THE next High Sheriff of Oxfordshire said he will 'lead from the front' as the intrepid runner prepares for a 100km ultra marathon along the Ridgeway in July.

Richard Venables, who will replace Jane Cranston as the county's High Sheriff next month, will take on the challenge as part of a series of sporting trials to raise money for two friends with Huntingdon's disease.

The 50-year-old will also run next month's London Marathon and ten 10km runs in different parts of Oxfordshire throughout the year.

Richard, who will take on the Dixons Carphone Race to the Stones on July 14, is raising money for the Huntingdon's Disease Association as two of his best friends from university, Chris and Mark Wood, are in the advanced stages of the disease and rely on 24 hour care.

When Richard takes over as High Sheriff he plans to launch a scheme to encourage teamwork and raise the profile of wellbeing in the workplace as well as improving sport and disability sport in deprived areas of Oxfordshire.

He said: "Exercise stimulates the brain, reduces stress and enhances health and productivity. Employers need to provide stimulating environments for their staff, show they care and lead by example."

Readers can get a discount for the run by visiting racetothestones.com and entering LOCAL10 when registering. Visit tinyurl.com/yav5wze9 to donate.

Under-pressure care home sold

OWNERS of a scandal-hit care home have sold it saying they felt 'the time was right' as they were approaching retirement.

Winterbrook Nursing Home in Wallingford was the focus of a criminal investigation last year following reports of ill treatment and assaults by members of staff.

Three former members of staff were charged this month with ill treatment or wilful neglect and are due to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on April 10.

Elizabeth Collins, 61 of Kynaston Road, Didcot, has been charged with three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual and six counts of breaching a care provider's duty of care resulting in ill treatment/neglect of an individual.

Mary Craddock, 59 of Egerton Road, Wallingford, has been charged with five counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

Joan Lovell, 63 of St Leonard's Lane, Wallingford, has been charged with three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

The directors said in a statement: "It has been a pleasure to own and operate this care home but it was felt the time was right to pass the business on to a new owner as we move closer to retirement."

Wallingford Care Ltd bought the home which was rated as 'requires improvement' in a Care Quality Commission report out on March 9.

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Family treated for toxic fumes

A FAMILY were rushed to hospital on Monday after inhaling toxic chemicals from a fish tank.

Police closed Hanney Road, Steventon, between St Michael's Way and Stonebridge Road shortly after 8.30pm on Monday and told residents to stay indoors and keep windows and doors shut.

Emergency crews from South Central Ambulance Service, Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue attended to the emergency involving hazardous materials.

A spokesperson for SCAS said: "We had three ambulance crews, our Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) and three ambulance officers on scene assessing and treating six patients. All those patients were assessed and treated at the scene and taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital for further treatment."

A Thames Valley Police spokesperson said the force attended "after a report a family had inhaled a chemical released from a fish tank".

Nichola Crook, who lives on Hanney Road, said: "We weren't told anything about what was going on. The police just told us to stay indoors and that we were not in any danger.

"I went next door to make sure my neighbour was alright and make her a cup of tea because she's a bit older and worried about all the flashing lights."

Another resident said police told people in the cordoned off area to keep their windows and doors closed.

MPs promote the county as tourist season begins

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE MPs welcomed visitors from as far as China last week to help promote the county as it prepares for the main tourist season.

Set up by management organisation Experience Oxfordshire as part of English Tourism Week, four of the county's six representatives visited businesses to see improvements being made to welcome visitors.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis welcomed a group of 120 Chinese tourists to Broughton Castle.

In Oxford, Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East, Labour) assisted staff at the visitor information centre on Broad Street while Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon, Lib Dem) welcomed rail passengers at Oxford Station.

In south Oxfordshire, John Howell (Henley, Conservative) greeted visitors to the River and Rowing museum in the town before heading to nearby Stonor Park to see the new visitor centre which opened on Saturday.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey (Conservative) and fellow Tory Robert Courts (Witney) were not involved.

Experience Oxfordshire has also produced a Welcome to Oxford and Oxfordshire video which will be broadcast on Oxford Bus Company's Park and Ride services.

Layla Moran MP (in red) with Andrew Morison and Wendy Bradley from Oxford Bus Company and Experience Oxfordshire's Martin Walker

Victoria Prentis MP with Experience Oxfordshire's Frank Smith and visitors from China

Commenting on the improvements to the visitor welcome in Oxford, Ms Moran said: "The tourism industry is crucial to Oxford, Abingdon and the whole county and it is great to be celebrating English Tourism Week.

"Visitors can be assured of a warm Oxfordshire welcome when they arrive."

Oxfordshire welcomes 27.6 million visitors every year with the sector employing one in 10 jobs in Oxfordshire and has an overall value of £2.04 billion.

John Howell MP, right, with David Worthington, director of Henley River and Rowing Museum

InBrief

Woman dies after truck collision

A WOMAN died after a truck blew its tyre and collided with her car.

The Scania Topline truck and Mazda CX-5 collided on the A420 between the A338 Frilford roundabout and the Tubney turn off in south Oxfordshire at 2.15pm on Thursday last week.

The Mazda driver, a 51-year-old woman from Buckingham, died at the scene.

The lorry driver had minor injuries but did not need hospital treatment.

Police are now appealing for witnesses, with the collision happening at a 'busy' time of day.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 817 22/03/2018 with information.

Link road open

VINTAGE vehicles, a 'driverless' car, a hydrogen powered vehicle and electric bicycles were the first to travel down a new route in south Oxfordshire.

The £11.65m Harwell link road opened to motorists yesterday.

It connects the B4493 to the A417 and provides a more direct route from housing developments west of Didcot to the Harwell Campus.

Construction started in December 2016 and the link road has been delivered both on schedule and to budget.

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Big Data Institute, Old Road: Martina Ferrara

Hubert Perrodo Building, St Peter's College: Richard James

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College: Nick Kane

Architects have designs on awards

By George Welch

A QUINTET of Oxford buildings have been shortlisted for an award celebrating architectural excellence.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) last week named the 12 buildings chosen for its South Awards 2018.

Making up nearly half the shortlist, Oxford creativity led the way with more entries than any other county.

The nominated Oxford buildings are the Big Data Institute, in Old Road; The College Hub, Kellog College; the Hubert Perrodo Building, St Peter's College; the New Library, The Queen's College; and The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College.

RIBA regional director James Robinson said: "We have a very strong shortlist of buildings for the RIBA Regional Awards in the south and south east this year. The standard and variety of the entries is high, from private houses to the larger public and institutional buildings.

"The shortlist also demonstrates the fantastic amount of design talent in the region, in practices both large and small, local and working nationally or indeed, internationally.

"The region has an amazing architectural heritage with buildings that have the capacity to amaze, inspire and improve our quality of life."

Competition to the Oxford buildings comes from seven entries across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire.

Left, the new library, The Queen's College: Jim Stephenson and above, The College Hub, Kellog College: Tim Crocker

All shortlisted buildings will be assessed by a regional jury with the winning buildings announced at the awards evening at Mercedes-Benz World in Surrey on May 17.

Winners will be considered for the national awards, the results of which will be announced in June. The shortlist for the Stirling Prize for the best building of the year will then be drawn from the national award-winning buildings later in the year.

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News

Diabetes patients given Flash help

A NEW potentially life-changing technology for many people with diabetes is available in Oxfordshire.

Flash Glucose Monitoring, which helps blood sugar recording, can now be prescribed for free on the NHS across the county.

Health provider Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group made the approval, but those prescribed Flash will have to attend education courses on how to use it before they can get free prescriptions.

Flash uses a small sensor that people wear on their skin. It records blood sugar levels continuously and can be read by scanning the sensor whenever needed.

The device can help with better control of the condition and, in turn, reduce the risk of serious diabetes-related complications.

Appeal denied

AN Oxford University student spared jail for stabbing her boyfriend has been denied permission to appeal her sentence.

Lavinia Woodward, 24, of Milan, Italy, pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding at Christ Church college during a drug-fuelled attack in December 2016.

She was handed a 10-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months last September.

A judge at the Court of Appeal denied her permission this week.

Celebrating our wildlife

AWARD-WINNING images of the nation's flora and fauna have arrived for a special exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.

Showcasing the winners and runners-up from the 2017 British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA), the exhibition celebrates the talents of amateur and professional photographers and highlights the diversity of the country's natural history.

Striking images of bird life, mammals and marine habitats are on display alongside floral habitats and mystical woodland scenes.

Lorraine Horne, audience development officer at the museum, said: "The BWPA aims to raise awareness about British biodiversity and habitats and encourage all ages to discover, explore and help conserve our heritage.

"This exhibition captures the imagination of photographers from all over the UK, with incredible images which showcase British wildlife at it's very best."

The exhibition will be on show at the Park Street museum until April 29.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybfnejy4 for more information.

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Category winners:
1. Alex Hyde (Hidden Britain)
2. Andrew Parkinson (Animal behaviour)
3. Matthew Roseveare (Wild pix 12-18yrs)
4. Francis Taylor (Wild Woods)
5. Daniel Trim (Urban Wildlife)

House prices rise 13 times salary

By Owen Hughes

HOUSE prices in Oxfordshire have skyrocketed to 13 times the average income.

The average house price in Oxfordshire has risen to £398,853 after a 6.7 per cent price increase from 2016 to 2017, compared to a 3.5 per cent increase in London over the past two years.

According to a report by the National Housing Federation published on Wednesday last week, Oxfordshire house buyers will need an income three times the average annual earnings to acquire an 80 per cent mortgage.

In Oxford, average house prices exceed £491,000, meaning the income required for an 80 per cent mortgage is £112,314 – nearly four times the city's mean annual earnings of £30,243.

Cherwell is the most affordable district to buy a home with an average house price of just over £330,000, but an income required for the same 80 per cent mortgage is still more than double the mean annual salary in the region of £29,780.

Prospective buyers in South Oxfordshire (£467,562), Vale of White Horse (£383,883) and West Oxfordshire (£369,448) would also need an income at least double the average earnings.

Housing associations in the South East built or started 14,700 homes in 2016/17, of which a third were for affordable home ownership.

The largest housing association in the county, Soha Housing, attributes the reason for the "growing crisis" to a large shortfall of new housing.

Chief executive Richard Peacock said: "Housing is completely unaffordable for too many people in Oxfordshire.

"It's great to hear that there will be more money from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

"But we desperately need more social rented housing in this area – and we need it now.

"Soha is doing its bit, with 450 new homes from 2017-19, but we'd love to be doing more."

Soha contributed 178 new builds across Oxfordshire between 2016 and 2017.

Less than 30 per cent of housing benefit claimants in the county are in employment, while 2.8 per cent of Oxfordshire residents are unemployed.

The unemployment rate in the whole of the south east region is 3.3 per cent according to the latest Labour Market Statistics released by the Office for National Statistics.

MP's backing for epileptic boy, six, to use cannabis

OXFORD West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran has thrown her support behind a campaign calling for a six-year-old boy with epilepsy to be granted a special licence to use medical cannabis.

Alfie Dingley from Warwickshire suffers from a rare condition and needs cannabis oil to help reduce his seizures.

His parents, Drew Dingley and Hannah Deacon, want the government to let him use the medication, a banned substance in the UK.

They met Prime Minister Theresa May and other ministers last week and handed a 380,000-strong petition to Downing Street.

Ms Moran praised the family's 'bravery and courage', saying it was a 'real honour' to meet them.

She added: "I believe that the majority of MPs and the public want to see the medicinal cannabis granted for Alfie to use in the UK.

"It is disgraceful that the family are having to fight this in the first place.

"The government's refusal to consider allowing the prescription of cannabis products for medicinal purposes is criminalising people who simply need to alleviate chronic pain."

As well as meeting Alfie's family, Ms Moran is a co-sponsor of the Legalisation of Cannabis (Medicinal Purposes) Bill, due to be debated on July 6.

At a pro-cannabis demonstration last year, Ms Moran admitted smoking the drug at university.

Layla Moran MP gave her support to Alfie's mother Hannah Deacon after signing a letter to the PM

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Oxford helps to develop China's green transport

By George Welch

BACKERS of a brand new 'future city' in China have turned to Oxfordshire for innovative ideas about green transport.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth will join a UK government-funded delegation of politicians and urban development experts heading to China on a knowledge sharing mission.

Green projects across Oxfordshire include testing driverless cars on county roads, the proposed 'zero emissions zone' in Oxford and Didcot Garden Town.

This has proven an inspiration for a new city called Xiong'an, near Beijing, which was announced in April last year.

Initially it will cover roughly 100sq km – the size of Paris – and will later expand to 200sq km – 67sq km smaller than Birmingham.

Eventually it will cover 2,000sq km – three times the size of New York – and home a population of between two and two and a half million people.

In comparison Oxford has a population of 150,000, according to the 2011 census.

Oxfordshire is one of four localities looking for ways to meet rising demand for transport and solve the growing problems of congestion and air pollution.

Cllr Hudspeth said: "We all know that Oxfordshire is a technology hotspot with its fair share of transport challenges, which make it a good place to try to solve the problems of congestion and air pollution.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth and Dr Samuel Chen from the Oxford Programme for the Future

"This is an opportunity to share what we have learnt, and building relationships in China that could lead to fresh ideas and investment."

As part of the project around 20 students from leading Chinese universities are expected to work on a transport related project in Oxfordshire.

Cllr Hudspeth said this would bring 'some immediate benefit to the county'.

The vision is to build Xiong'an, 100km from Beijing, into a world class green and smart city with hi-tech industries and more efficient transport. It is also intended to take the pressure off the growing Chinese capital.

Dr Samuel Chen, who arranged the trip and is from the Oxford Programme for the Future, which re-thinks city development, said: "I am sure the leaders of Xiong'an will be able to learn a lot from Oxfordshire's experience in green transport."

Better rail capacity essential

INCREASED rail capacity between Oxford and Didcot should be treated as a priority if the economy – both locally and nationally – is to prosper.

England's Economic Heartland (EEH) – a partnership of local authorities from Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and Swindon – has written to the Department for Transport demanding the rail link be improved.

Heather Smith, the partnership's strategic transport forum chairman, said in a document: "There should be explicit recognition of the need to develop the role of Oxford as a rail hub to be realised.

"The need to address the capacity constraints on the Didcot to Oxford section of the network have already been identified – not just to the benefit of the Heartland economy but also the wider UK economy."

The government has launched a consultation on how the Great Western rail network could be improved from April 2020.

EEH said delivery of East West Rail, which will span from Oxford to Cambridge, via Milton Keynes, is a 'catalyst' for a review into whether the current rail franchise map is fit for purpose.

Yvonne Constance, responsible for the environment and economy at Oxfordshire County Council, said: "Improving rail links within Oxfordshire and across the wider region is absolutely crucial to achieving our economic ambitions.

"The service between Oxford and Didcot is a hugely important part of the network.

"Providing more capacity and a better experience for passengers should now be addressed as a priority."

Helicopters join motorcyclist search

HELICOPTER teams are aiding police investigations into the mystery of a missing motorcyclist.

Police were called to the River Thames in Abingdon at 10.10pm on Sunday following reports of a motorbike crashing into the river.

The motorcycle was recovered from the river but officers were unsure if the rider had crashed into the Thames on the bike.

Sections of Saxton Road and Preston Road were briefly closed as emergency vehicles searched the area.

A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said on Twitter: "We are working to establish whether anyone entered the river with the motorcycle.

"Our primary concern is for the welfare of anyone who may have entered the water."

Anyone with information or who saw anything suspicious near the river on Sunday evening should call the police enquiry centre on 101.

Delivering cleaner air though hydrogen hub

A GREEN initiative designed to drive investment in hydrogen and fuel cell projects has been launched.

The Oxfordshire Hydrogen Hub launched last week at the Said Business School.

As Oxford plans to introduce the UK's first zero emission zone in 2020, hydrogen and fuel cell technologies will be important in decarbonising energy across the county.

It is hoped the initiative will deliver cleaner air through the development of new transport technologies.

Susan Halliwell, director for planning and place at the Oxfordshire County Council, said: "OCC is committed to supporting the development of a low carbon future across the county.

"Hydrogen technologies have a key role to play in realising this future, providing a pathway to cost effective clean energy."

Hydrogen Hubs are a new initiative that bring together stakeholders and the hydrogen and fuel cell industry to develop projects that will deploy technology in a way that meets energy needs of the community.

More than 100 stakeholders attended the launch event last week.

Two hydrogen vehicles, a Toyota Mirai, *pictured*, and Hyundai ix35 fuel cell, were displayed in front of the Oxford University building.

The Hydrogen Hub launched in Swindon in January 2016 and has since driven more than £1.5million of investment in hydrogen and fuel cell projects in Wiltshire.

Improved safety for A34 given go ahead

PROPOSED improvements to the A34 moved a step closer last week after the government approved the safety measures.

Highways England was tasked with delivering recommendations and work is now under way to progress what will be done and when up to 2020.

Recommendations include improvements to the size and layout of laybys, slip roads and signage.

The Department for Transport will make a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey said: "I am pleased that the recommendations in the A34 Safety Review are being carried forward and that the Department for Transport has accepted that the A34 needs improvement.

"I hope Highways England can implement the recommendations as speedily as possible and will continue to work with stakeholders to put pressure on the government to continue to improve the A34."

The proposals follow pressure from campaigners and local MPs, after a number of deaths and crashes on the busy road.

Roads minister Jesse Norman confirmed on Tuesday last week that development work had been authorised.

Newbury MP Richard Benyon, who has lobbied alongside Mr Vaizey, said the wait has been 'frustrating' but that getting the safety review done is "a major step forward".

He added: "Frustrating though it seems, I accept that it is important that any works are properly scrutinised for value for money and more importantly for effectiveness. I want to see these improvements in place as much as anyone else."

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News

Passengers happy with buses

SATISFACTION with Stagecoach in Oxfordshire bus services has risen two per cent to 91 per cent, according to watchdog Transport Focus.

The independent research showed year-on-year increase in approval levels across all categories since 2015.

This includes safe driving, with scores moving up to 88 per cent, and value for money, which increased to 67 per cent from the previous year.

Passengers were also more satisfied with punctuality from the previous study, up four per cent to 75 per cent.

Managing director Martin Sutton said the 'fantastic' results were an endorsement of his hard working employees. He added: "Oxfordshire has endured a series of roadworks over the last year while congestion continues to be an issue.

"We're delighted our customers remain loyal and continue to feel satisfied with our services despite the challenge we've faced in the city over the past 12 months."

Meanwhile, Oxford Bus Company received a similar 89 per cent satisfaction overall, while its Park and Ride service ranked at 93 per cent.

The Oxford Bus Company was rated as similar for value for money (65 per cent) compared to Stagecoach Oxfordshire (67 per cent), although the Park and Ride was much higher on 75 per cent.

Search for talented engineers

THE search has started for the most outstanding young engineers in Oxfordshire.

Teachers and employers across the county are asked to nominate the best and most improved young students and apprentices for the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire's Young Engineer Awards.

Since 2009, the awards have been celebrating the talent of Oxfordshire's young people and recognising the technical skills and achievements in the county's schools, colleges and workplaces.

Award entries are now open in the Best Student and Most Improved Student categories for age ranges 14-16 years and 16-18 years, as well as Best Apprentice for 16-18 years.

Winners will receive awards and prizes of tablet computers from the High Sherriff, Jane Cranston, at an awards ceremony at Lucy Electric in Thame on June 27.

Mrs Cranston encouraged nominations, saying: "These awards recognise the next generation of creative thinkers and innovative problem-solvers and I hope they will inspire many more individuals to follow a successful engineering career.

"The judge will be looking for individuals who have shown exceptional progress or an outstanding application of engineering skill and achievement to either study or workplace projects."

Visit youngengineerawards.co.uk to nominate before April 20.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Swapping chocolate for chicks to help children

By George Welch

WHO needs chocolate when you can celebrate Easter with some very special fluffy friends instead?

Terminally ill children staying at Helen & Douglas House can often not eat Easter eggs due to swallowing or digestive problems.

So instead of filling up with E-numbers children staying at the East Oxford hospice will enjoy the calming tones of tweeting chicks in what will be quite different Easter celebrations.

Eight eggs housed in an incubator will hatch at Helen & Douglas House, with the hatchlings expected to keep the youngsters company for 10 days.

The children will watch them hatch and have the opportunity to hold them.

One-year-old Ella, who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare neuromuscular disorder characterised by progressive muscle wasting, spent last Easter at the Churchill Hospital-based hospice.

Older brother Aydan made Easter decorations and was fascinated by the chicks while Ella stretched out in a Silver Cross pushchair with the little cheeps from the baby chicks in the background.

Dad Jack described the family's time at Helen & Douglas House as a 'calm and beautiful safe haven'.

Aydan and his sister Ella enjoying the chicks last year

He added: "After being admitted as Ella was unwell, the peace and tranquillity was exactly what we all needed.

"In the most difficult times the staff are there, be it sitting at your child's bedside while you shower, making sure you eat a meal while you stay in house or being at the end of the phone in the middle of the night.

"Through the whole process of having a terminally ill child they are there for the whole family.

"Nothing makes the situation okay but having the support of Helen & Douglas House feels like a weight has been lifted."

Gemma Radnor, a play specialist at the hospice, said: "The children love watching the chicks hatch, as do the staff and families, and once eggs start to crack, people can't keep away."

Amate Animalia, a Cotswolds-based charity which educates people about exotic animals, will also bring a special collection of weird and wonderful creatures.

When they visited last month they took a meerkat, hedgehogs, rabbits, a skunk and tarantulas.

Visit hdh.org.uk to donate to Helen & Douglas House.

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Josie Barcial, far right, with The Prince of Wales and fellow nurses at the reception at Buckingham Palace

Nurse's delight at meeting 'the future king'

A 'MUCH-LOVED' care worker rubbed shoulders with royalty at a celebration of all things nursing.

Josie Barcial was invited to Buckingham Palace for a reception hosted by The Prince of Wales following a surprise nomination by her employer.

The deputy manager of Sanctuary Care's Watlington branch met Prince Charles at the event earlier this month that recognised the contribution of frontline nurses.

Josie, who lives in the town with her two daughters, said she was well behaved and adhered to regal etiquette.

"I curtsied and he extended his hand, asking me what it was like working in a nursing home - I replied that 'it is very rewarding your highness'," she said.

"I felt so special, imagine the future King of England just in front of you, speaking like ordinary people."

Josie, nominated for her 'significant' contribution to nursing, moved to England after working as a nurse in the Philippines and Los Angeles. She began work at the Hill Road home in 2004 and has been there since.

The 55-year-old said it was always a dream of hers to visit Buckingham Palace.

"Now I have been inside, it's like a dream come true," she said.

Sheila O'Connor, director of operations at Sanctuary Care, said the team were 'over the moon' at Josie's achievement.

She added: "We are honoured that she was there, as a representative of Sanctuary Care and all of the wonderful nurses we have caring for our residents."

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Ideas for a cracking Easter day out

Concocting a great show to produce George's Marvellous Medicine

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Out & About

Plenty to get you eggcited

Eggstraordinary Easter Fun
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March 30 - April 1

Have a go at being a master chocolatier, ice and decorate your own egg in the castle's Key Learning Centre where lots of other Easter fun will be on offer.

Big Easter Bunny Hunt
Waterperry, near Wheatley
March 24 - April 15

Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt around the ornamental gardens. Find them all and claim a special Easter prize. £2 per child - children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

Easter Trail
Stonor Park, Henley
March 24 - April 15

Family fun as children discover and unravel the clues to the Easter Trail in the gardens, park and wonder woods.

Easter weekend of eggsploration
March 3 - April 2
Blenheim Palace

Follow an over-sized Easter Egg Hunt throughout the parkland and gardens with 8ft giant decorated eggs to find. Explore the grounds to seek out the special 'Blenheim Egg', note its location on your map and enter a competition to win an Easter surprise.

The Pleasure Gardens will transform into an Easter wonderland with lots of interactive experiences, family-friendly activities and shows to enjoy. Find a traditional Victorian fairground with vintage rides for the whole family.

Embark on an Easter bunny walkabout or frolic with the fairy stilt walkers; plus have a go at Archery and get jumping on the bouncy castle or trampolines!

Easter Trail
Greys Court, Henley
March 30 - April 2

Follow the clues on the Easter trail and enjoy a chocolate treat at the end. Costs £3 plus property admission

Easter at Cogges Manor Farm
Witney
March 30 – April 13

Two weeks of wonderful Easter activities to keep all ages busy over the holidays with different activities each day as well as the Easter trail.

March 30: The ever-popular Nick Cope returns to Cogges for two performances at 11am and 1pm.
March 31 & April 1: Easter trail and Meet the Animals handling sessions at 11am and 2pm.
April 2: Storytime at 10.30am, 11am and 12pm. Hot cross buns made fresh in the manor house kitchen, 12pm to 2pm. 'Meet the Animals' sessions at 11am and 2pm
April 3: Pond dipping 10am - 2pm
April 4: Cooking up an Easter treat in the manor house kitchen with chocolate egg decorating 10am - 2pm
April 5: Cogges crafty sessions - farmyard junkyard 10am - 2pm
April 6: Woodland Club's messy mud kitchen 10am - 2pm
April 9: Story time at 10.30am, 11am and 12pm and Where the Wild Things Are sock puppets 10am - 2pm
April 10: Seedling Science drop-in sessions 10am - 2pm
April 11: Farmyard friends biscuit making in the manor house kitchen 10am - 2pm
April 12: Cogges crafty sessions - nature printing 10am - 2pm
April 13: Woodland Club's crazy clay faces 10am - 2pm

Fairytale Farm
Chipping Norton
March 30 - April 2

Explore the giant new-look rabbit burrow and meet the Easter bunny who will tell stories. Every child will receive a full-size Easter egg.

Solve the clues on the golden egg hunt on the Enchanted Walk Trail and win a prize.

The farm is also running additional events all over the school holidays.

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ENJOY THE TRUE VALUE OF YOUR HOME

Recent data reveals the staggering potential wealth available to the UK's elderly homeowners

Property becomes an increasingly important component of your wealth as you age, and this has never been truer with low interest rates affecting savings and pensions underperforming.

Nevertheless, research by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) indicates that over-55 UK homeowners could be sitting on a goldmine with their accumulated property wealth calculated to total £2.5 trillion[1]. To place this figure in context, the UK's elderly homeowners could potentially access more wealth than the GDP of France (£2.4 trillion), according to the latest IMF projections[2].

However, the CML report also indicates that mortgage debt is rising fastest amongst older households, plus incomes traditionally drop in later life. The question is how can this asset wealth be used to benefit you?

Accessing a portion of the equity stored in your home now could provide you with a timely financial boost in later life. If you're a UK homeowner over the age of 55, you may be eligible for a Lifetime Mortgage that could see you access as little as £10,000 of the wealth in your property – a tiny fraction in light of the statistics above – which could help you clear any existing mortgage debts, and provide you with financial security and freedom in retirement.

A Lifetime Mortgage allows you to convert some of the value of your property into a tax-free cash sum, without having to give up ownership of your home. Lifetime Mortgage plans have no fixed-end date and come with no required monthly repayments, so the funds you release are yours to spend as you wish. The mortgage and accrued interest are not due for repayment until both you and your partner either pass away or both enter long-term care.

If you are concerned about the build-up of the loan value over time, plans are available that allow you to pay off up to 10pc of the mortgage balance each year without penalty. This can help offset the interest accrued and help to secure some of the property's wealth for your future use.

What's more, with plans from Equity Release Council-approved lenders you will benefit from the safety of the no-negative equity guarantee, ensuring that you and your family will never owe more than the value of your home. Plans from approved lenders also allow you the option of moving to a suitable alternative property, subject to the lender's criteria.

On top of this, competitive rates of fixed interest are available, which allow you to get an accurate projection, so you know exactly what is happening with your money at all times.

There's no need to face the golden years of retirement with the clouds of mortgage debt or limited incomes looming on the horizon. After years of responsible saving and hard work, your property could provide you with the financial boost to face the future with confidence, so you can have the retirement you deserve.

[1] Source: Council of Mortgage Lenders, 'Later life borrowing, New mindsets: old silos', June 2017, p.23.
[2] Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2017.

Could equity release help you? For more information call now and speak to Andy Pike at his Oxford Office - 01865 378718

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The advice from Andy Pike was both impartial and informed. It helped satisfy any concerns I had about the implications of equity release. I can recommend Responsible Equity Release to anyone. - **Julia Annand, 25th October 2017.**

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Truly magical medicine

By Samantha McGregor

Preston Nyman plays George

ROALD Dahl's story of a boy who creates magical potions to punish his bullying grandmother comes to Oxford this Easter.

A "fantastical" stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine will be staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday, April 10, to Saturday, April 14.

Most grandmothers are lovely, kind, helpful ladies. Not George's grandmother.

In fact, George Kranky's grandmother likes to gobble up slugs and bugs, and is always telling George what to do.

But one day, when his parents leave him alone with the grizzly old grunion, George takes his chance and sets about creating a brand-new medicine to cure her of her cruelty.

He uses a variety of household ingredients such as shampoo, deodorant, gin, horseradish sauce, engine oil, floor polish paint and even anti-freeze, to make his concoction.

Little does he know that his perilous potion will be the start of a rather marvellous adventure.

Directed by Julia Thomas, this imaginative and fun-filled production of the much-loved classic tale has been adapted by David Wood.

Taking the role of the show's hero George is talented young actor Preston Nyman, son of Andy Nyman, the co-creator of Olivier nominated Ghost Stories, and who played Winston Churchill in Peaky Blinders.

Lisa Howard, known for her recurring role as Grace Sheehan in Emmerdale, will play the grizzly grandma.

Completing the cast is Catherine Morris who will play George's mum, Justin Wilman as his dad and Chandni Mistry as the chicken.

Roald Dahl's book was published in 1981 and an audio book was later released which was narrated by Richard E Grant.

Dahl once said had he not become a famous writer, he would have loved to have been a doctor.

This production is suitable for children from age five.

Tickets for George's Marvellous Medicine at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

The Shires come to Oxfordshire

THE UK's biggest country and Americana act The Shires completes the line-up for Towersey Festival.

Acclaimed British country duo The Shires are the final headline act to be announced for the 54th Towersey Festival, which takes place from August 24 to 27, at Thame Showground.

Hailing from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Ben Earle and Crissie Rhodes, aka The Shires, are the biggest selling UK country act of all time, and the first UK act to be honoured with a Country Music Association (CMA) Award.

The duo close Towersey Festival on Monday, August 27, and join Richard Thompson Electric Trio on Friday, The Proclaimers and Big Country, who will headline Saturday and Beth Orton on Sunday.

This year's line-up also features the Americana-tinged Wildwood Kin, songwriter/ guitarist Blair Dunlop, William The Conqueror, and the bluegrass influenced Bella Gaffney and Polly Bolton.

Towersey Festival director Joe Heap said: "We're so pleased to finally announce The Shires as the last of our headline acts this year.

"They're quite simply the biggest UK country/ Americana act there is, and they'll be making the August bank holiday Monday a day to remember."

With 11 venues, alongside an extensive music programme the festival also features 24 hours of ceilidh, daily workshops, spoken word, film screenings, events and activities for children and younger festival-goers, and more.

For more information or tickets go to towerseyfestival.com

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Out & About

Quartet making folk funky

By Josh Cox

THE Urban Folk Quartet, one of the most exciting and vibrant bands on the UK acoustic/ roots scene, are heading back out on the road for a series of shows that take them from intimate folk club settings into theatres, and onto international festival stages.

The band will be making an appearance at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, in Uffington on April 14.

Founded in 2009, The UFQ have released six albums to date; three studio and three live.

They've developed a unique global sound that, though still rooted in both traditional songs and Celtic dance forms, has grown to embrace Eastern European flourishes, Middle Eastern melodies, and rhythms associated with Afrobeat, north India and Cuba.

American bluegrass, funk and the occasional stray electric dance music references are also audible as tunes, jigs, reels and songs within their repertoire and can often spiral outwards into tightly rehearsed and improvised directions.

Each of the band members are highly accomplished musicians in their own right; Joe Broughton plays the fiddle, mandolin, guitar, Paloma Trigás plays fiddle, with Tom Chapman on percussion and Dan Walsh taking up the banjo and guitar.

"It's always enjoyable seeing how the new stuff goes down, how it interacts with the pieces around it and just generally taking it beyond the rehearsal room," says Tom, one of the UK's most accomplished and best known cajón players.

He added: "We're not afraid to swap things around night-by-night and give it a go. It's a great feeling when you have a solid set list down and you feel like you know everything inside out, but this phase of experimentation [we're currently in] is equally as exciting, and I hope audiences get a sense of that."

Tickets cost £15 and the show starts at 7.30pm. For more details or to purchase tickets visit www.theufq.com

Conducting a little Alchymy at arts festival

The North Wall Arts Centre has recently announced the full line-up for its annual festival of new plays, Alchymy, which takes place from April 6 to 8.

Now in its second year, Alchymy Festival is designed to showcase the skills of early-career theatre-makers.

The programme presents high-quality theatre alongside a wide range of industry events. Many of the shows are rehearsed in-house at The North Wall prior to the festival.

Altogether, 12 new plays will premiere at the festival this year alongside masterclasses and panel discussions.

Most writers, directors and actors involved in the festival were trained at The North Wall on the organisation's renowned ArtsLab programme.

The shows include three newly commissioned monologues written by Luke Barnes, Sonya Hale and Ian Charleson.

The line-up also includes the world premiere of climate-change play Rehearsing for Planet B by Forward Arena Theatre Company, a new one-woman show about the nature of shame by Marika McKennell (ITCH) and I Promise Tomorrow I'll Forget Where I Buried It, a monologue by Hal Coase.

The North Wall's director in residence, Emily Collins, will direct Cheer Up Slug by Tamsin Daisy Rees.

The event will also feature appearances from significant names in the world of British theatre, including artistic director of the Gate Theatre, Ellen McDougall, and former artistic director of the National Theatre of Scotland, Laurie Sansom.

Ellie Keel, festival producer, said: "The first Alchymy Festival in 2017 showcased the amazing talent of the writers, actors and directors who have worked with the organisation over the years.

"This year, we've increased the number of shows and events to present an even more exciting and varied programme for our audiences.

"It is thrilling to be presenting the premiere of 12 new shows in one weekend - come along to see the very first performances of some incredible new plays."

Weekend passes range from £25 to £40 with tickets to individual plays starting from £5. To find out more information visit thenorthwall.com

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Out&About Competition

WIN a visit to an 'out of this world' golf experience

Closing date: Monday, April 3, 2018

ALIEN planetary landing sites, black holes and space ships have all appeared next to the Kassam Stadium as adventure golf goes interstellar.

There is now a pair of new space-themed 18-hole golf courses on the first floor of the Ozone Leisure Complex in Blackbird Leys.

Competitors have to negotiate their way around five zones, putting balls on a space dock, inside a spaceship, in outer space, on a Mars landing site and in an unknown, mysterious forest planet.

It was one of the first space-themed adventure golf courses in the whole of the UK when it opened in February 17th, says Alistair Burnett founder of the company Gravitee Golf.

He said: "People have done jungle, dinosaur and underwater themes but this is the first time anyone has tackled a 36-hole space adventure.

"It involves am amazing UV room, plus crashed space ships, aliens, rockets, a black hole and a Red Planet scape for the space adventurers...

"It's looking absolutely brilliant."

Mr Burnett said adventure golf is rising in popularity amongst people who want something different from the more-established leisure activities such as going to the pub, cinema or bowling alley.

"If you are looking for something fun to do there's not always a whole lot of choice. We wanted to offer something that's a bit different to the norm, whatever your age. We welcome families with small children and grandparents or groups of friends for a stag-do, or as part of a team-building exercise with work colleagues.

"We have party rooms and meeting spaces so people can come and play and then hang out afterwards."

Mr Burnett said 'adventure golf' differs from its seaside sibling 'mini golf' because it is themed and has a storyline, which adventurors can follow as they work their way around.

He added: "It really takes things to next level with so much more going on, it is really exciting."

For more information see www.graviteegolf.com

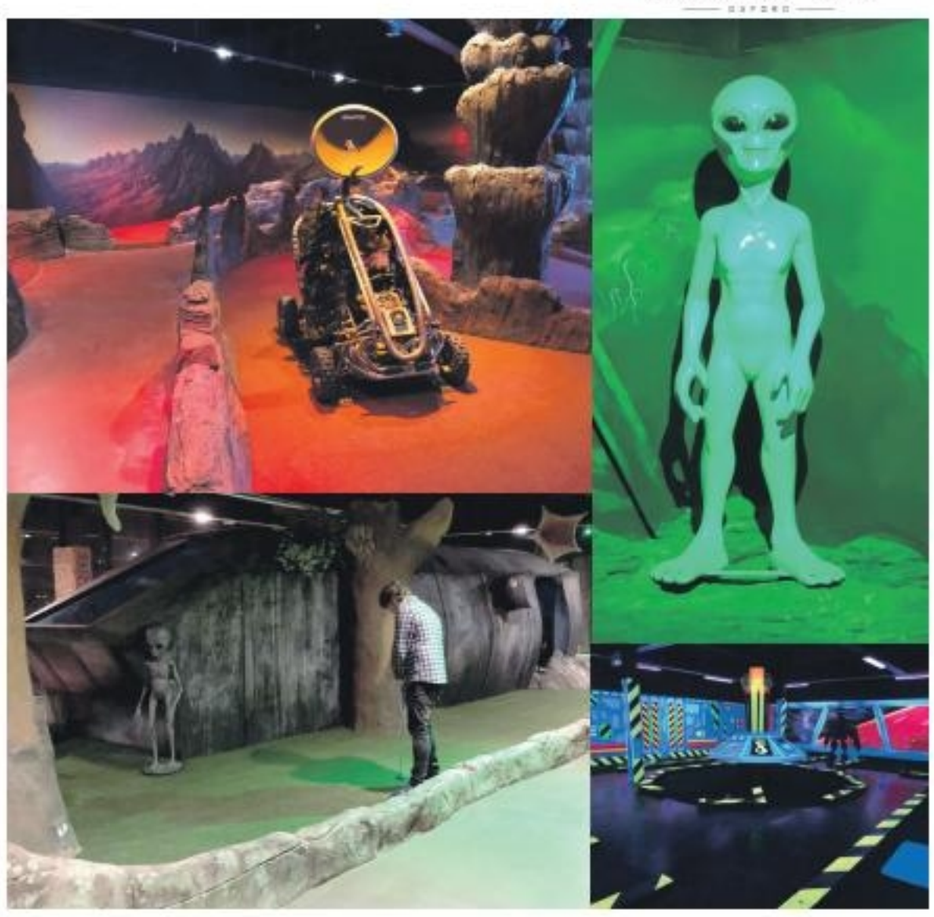
Win a family visit!

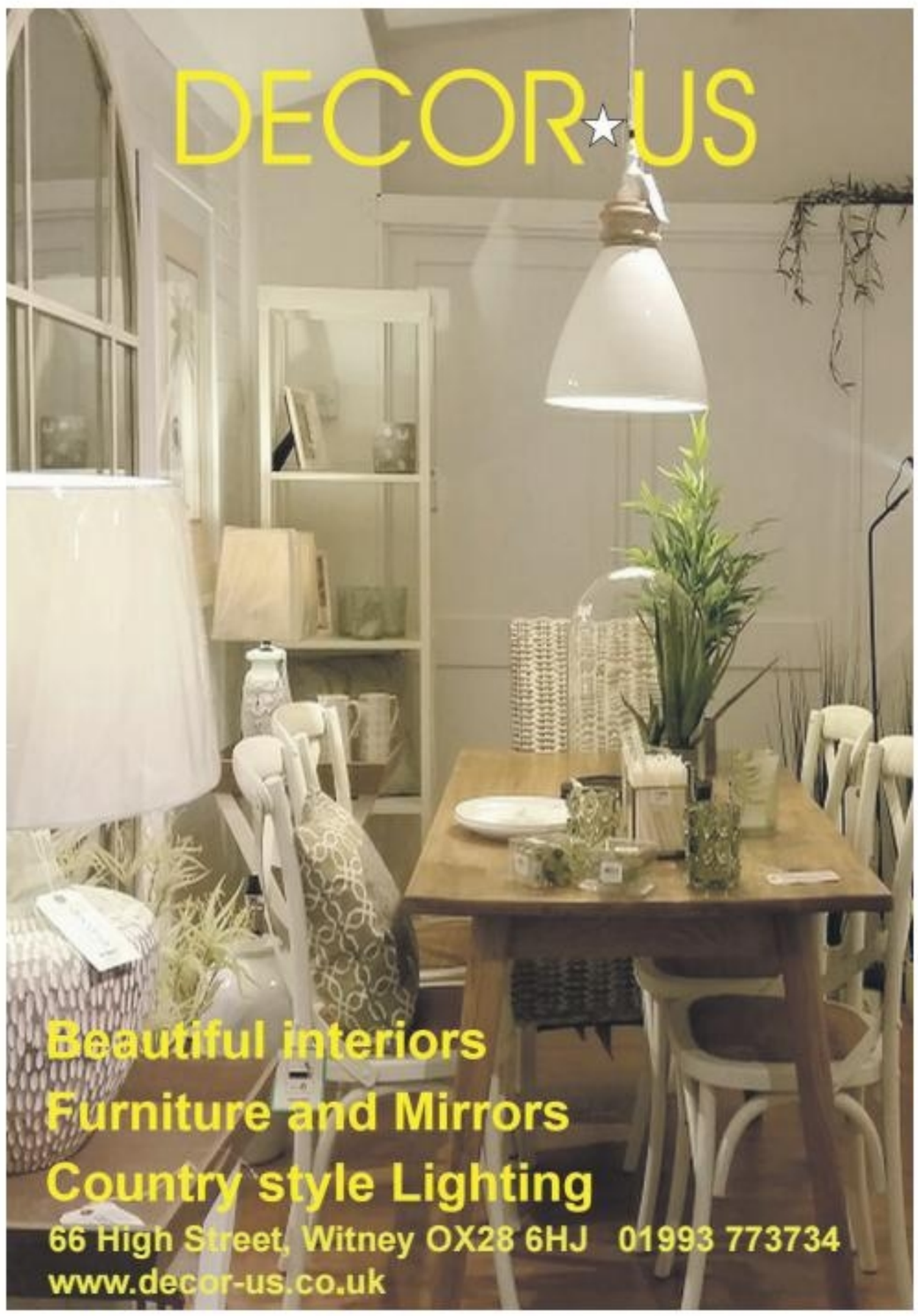
We have teamed up with Gravitee Golf to organise a round of golf for 5 people on both courses with 2 pizzas to share afterwards.

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the following simple question.

Q: Where is Gravitee Golf sited in Oxford?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us





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Due to our lease ending, we have taken the decision to close the doors for the final time at The Bed Barn/ Sleepsolutionzzz in Carterton at 4pm on Monday 2nd April 2018. As a result, we have significant stocks of beds and mattresses to clear from industry renowned brands which must be sold, we will be offering never to be repeated discounts in order to clear the building, ready to hand back to the landlords.

We look forward to welcoming you.

OPENING HOURS:

Wednesday 28th March: 8am – 5pm,
Thursday 29th March: 10am – 5pm,
Friday 30th March: 10am – 4pm,
Saturday 31st March: 10am – 5pm,
Sunday 1st April: Closed,
Monday 2nd April: 10am – 4pm

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FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
  Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

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To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

COLOUR FENCE

puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE

15	26	15	16	14	26	14	4	12	■	12	5	10
19	■	2	■	9	■	11	■	14	■	22	■	15
10	23	6	9	24	5	9	■	19	22	17	8	23
■	■	23	■	12	■	5	■	19	■	4	■	23
14	19	23	14	■	15	23	24	■	9	15	26	10
13	■	■	■	2	19	14	14	8	■	8	■	22
1	23	14	20	1	19	■	15	17	26	22	1	17
5	■	15	■	23	22	17	17	6	■	■	■	12
3	14	17	2	■	21	14	8	■	10	19	1	23
22	■	15	■	24	■	23	■	18	■	19	■	■
9	6	9	19	14	■	9	22	1	17	15	25	14
15	■	24	■	17	■	1	■	4	■	26	■	15
19	5	14	■	2	17	14	15	7	20	15	23	12

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 U	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 C	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 R	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

UNEVEN NUT, STONE ME!

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake during the reign of which English king?
2. How is Anne Catherick referred to in a title of a 1859 novel by Wilkie Collins?
3. Adamstown is the capital of which British Overseas Territory in the Pacific Ocean?
4. The Greenwich Meridian passes through the UK, France and which other European country?
5. Who, when he won the F1 World Championship in 1982, recorded just one victory during the season?
6. What S is a writ ordering a person to attend a court?
7. Which book by JK Rowling is set in the fictional town of Pagford?
8. Tufted, horned and Atlantic are species of which seabird in the auk family?
9. Singer Niall Horan caddied for which golfer at the annual Par 3 contest immediately prior to the 2015 US Masters Tournament?
10. Which actress played Margaret Thatcher in the 2011 film The Iron Lady?

NONAGRAM

A	C	E
P	U	D
L	I	T

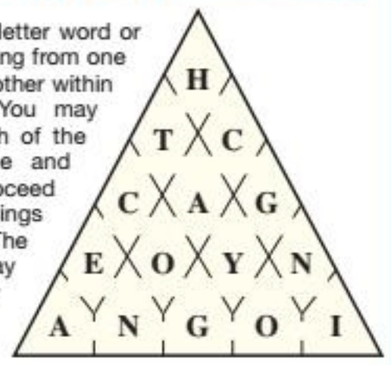
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
26 Good; 31 Very Good; 36 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

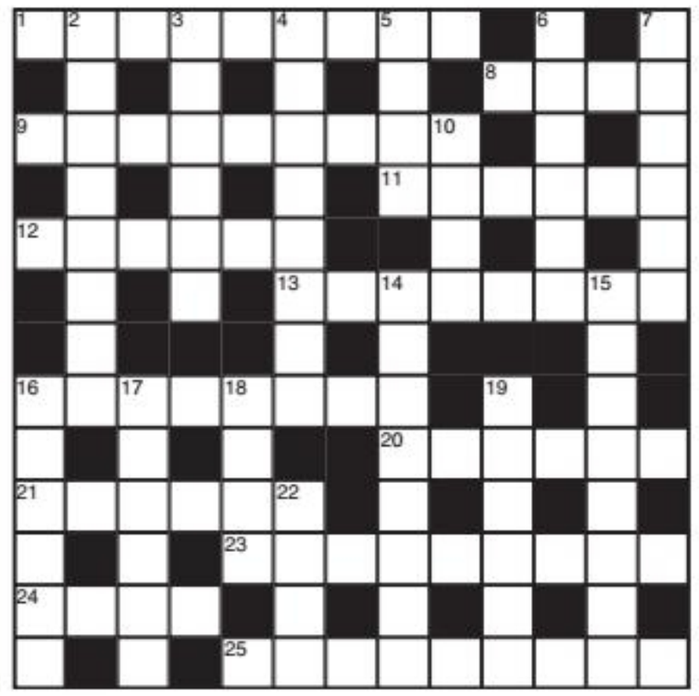


FIVE ALIVE

JO	LU	ID	CE	RY
UC	■	SO	■	AI
HM	UA	IS	RI	SC
PR	■	NU	■	EH
SE	DL	EG	PE	TS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Type of bread for a full breakfast? (9)
8. She followed Eliza to the throne (4)
9. Apt Berlin characters worth putting in the newspaper (9)
11. Hesitant reply to question as to whose fur it is? (6)
12. Note, new tune is needed for the dance (6)
13. What the drug addict did gave a new life (8)
16. Beset by stress, I had a car crash (8)
20. Young child mashed pea in the drink container (6)
21. Support the Spanish drive forward (6)
23. One not in agreement suffering from abnormal tiredness (9)
24. Come up against an objection (4)
25. We are at one in this (9)

DOWN

2. Shocking if rich or refined (8)
3. Pauline oddly loses a place in row (4-2)
4. The interval is not a generous period (8)
5. Fit bachelor getting in the beer (4)
6. Engineer is in the way to oppose (6)
7. New Delhi, after Sunday, gets protection (6)
10. Bird found in northern Europe (4)
14. To abandon aeroplane is not out of order (8)
15. Interpreter was on first page of old books (8)
16. It would seem to be a soft fruit (6)
17. What the farmer likes to see happen casually (4,2)
18. Two-way transfer (4)
19. Frenchmen keep an antelope in large bottle (6)
22. Foreigner without a legal right (4)

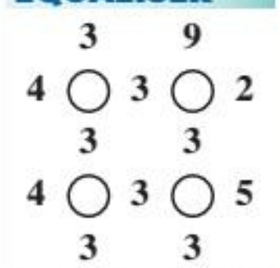
SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

						5	7	
4			5	9				
			3		1	2		6
				3	2	8	5	7
	8			1	5	9		4
2		7					6	3
	9	1			3			5
						6	9	
	2		8	6				

3		7	9				6	5
	2			4	1			
						3		
4			2			5		7
						9	4	1
	8							
		5			7			
				3			5	
9	3		6		8			

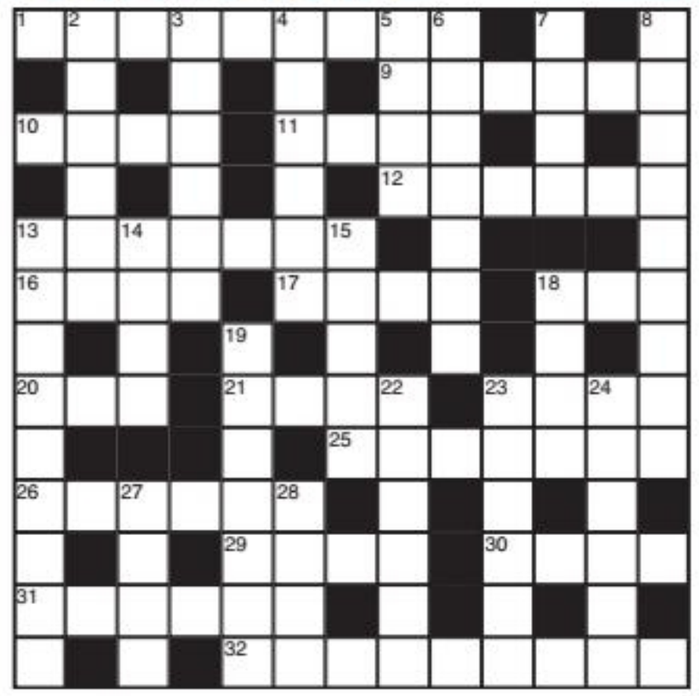
EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Ready-made (3,3,3)
9. Shallow lake (6)
10. Aspersion (4)
11. Warmth (4)
12. Quite modern (6)
13. Largest ocean (7)
16. Waterless (4)
17. Unconscious state (4)
18. Hairstyle (3)
20. Month (3)
21. Amphibian (4)
23. Long wailing cry (4)
25. Verbatim (7)
26. Angel (6)
29. Twinge (4)
30. Create (4)
31. Forest officer (6)
32. Dining-hall (9)

DOWN

2. Arctic seabird (6)
3. Intensely passionate (6)
4. Onomatopoeic (6)
5. Flair (4)
6. Magnate (anag.) (7)
7. Asian desert (4)
8. Alert (2,3,4)
13. Fortune-telling (9)
14. Large town (4)
15. Reef material (5)
18. Lout (4)
19. Plug (7)
22. Dell (6)
23. Head protection (6)
24. Pedestrian (6)
27. Chime (4)
28. Swift animal (4)

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SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Henry VI: 2 The Woman in White; 3 Pitcairn Islands; 4 Spain; 5 Keke Rosberg; 6 Subpoena; 7 The Casual Vacancy; 8 Puffin; 9 Rory McIlroy; 10 Meryl Streep.

CROSS CODE:

1 U	2 B	3 V	4 N	5 I	6 Y	7 K	8 D	9 C	10 P	11 X	12 T	13 Q
14 E	15 A	16 Z	17 R	18 J	19 L	20 F	21 W	22 O	23 S	24 H	25 G	26 M

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:
Across – 1 Wholemeal; 8 Beth; 9 Printable; 11 Ermine; 12 Minuet; 13 Injected; 16 Accident; 20 Teapot; 21 Propel; 23 Dissenter; 24 Abut; 25 Unanimity.
Down – 2 Horrific; 3 Line-up; 4 Meantime; 5 Able; 6 Resist; 7 Shield; 10 Error; 14 Jettison; 15 Exponent; 16 Appear; 17 Crop up; 18 Dead; 19 Magnum; 22 Lien.

QUICK CROSSWORD:
Across – 1 Off the peg; 9 Lagoon; 10 Slur; 11 Heat; 12 Newish; 13 Pacific; 16 Arid; 17 Coma; 18 Bob; 20 May; 21 Toad; 23 Howl; 25 Literal; 26 Seraph; 29 Pang; 30 Make; 31 Ranger; 32 Reflectory.
Down – 2 Fulmar; 3 Torrid; 4 Echoic; 5 Elan; 6 Gateman; 7 Gobi; 8 On the ball; 13 Palmistry; 14 City; 15 Coral; 18 Boor; 19 Stopper; 22 Dingle; 23 Helmet; 24 Walker; 27 Ring; 28 Hare.

EASY SUDOKU:

8	1	3	4	2	6	5	7	9
4	6	2	5	9	7	3	1	8
9	7	5	3	8	1	2	4	6
1	4	9	6	3	2	8	5	7
3	8	6	7	1	5	9	2	4
2	5	7	9	4	8	1	6	3
6	9	1	2	7	3	4	8	5
7	3	8	1	5	4	6	9	2
5	2	4	8	6	9	7	3	1

HARD SUDOKU:

3	1	7	9	8	2	4	6	5
5	2	6	3	4	1	7	9	8
8	9	4	7	6	5	3	1	2
4	6	9	1	2	3	5	8	7
2	5	3	8	7	6	9	4	1
7	8	1	5	9	4	6	2	3
6	4	5	2	1	7	8	3	9
1	7	8	4	3	9	2	5	6
9	3	2	6	5	8	1	7	4

MAGIC SQUARE:
menu; even; nest; unto.

WORD PYRAMID:
Ocean-going yacht.

EQUALISER:
Clockwise from top left – multiply; divide; add; subtract. Total: 6.

FIVE ALIVE:
(1) Across – Juicy; Music; Slept. **Down** – Jumps; Issue; Yacht.
(2) Across – Older; Hairs; Edges. **Down** – Ochre; Doing; Rises.

NONAGRAM:
acute; adieu; adult; audit; auld; caul; clue; clued; cued; cult; cupel; cute; cutie; dilute; dual; ducal; ducat; duct; ductile; duel; duet; dulcet; dulia; dupe; dupe; duplet; DUPLICATE; etui; laud; lieu; luce; lucid; lucite; ludic; luetic; lute; luted; piculet; pilau; puce; pula; pule; puled; puli; taupe; teacup; tulip; tuple; udal; update; utile.

An Eggcellent Easter

CHINNOR & PRINCES RISBOROUGH RAILWAY

FOUR DAYS OF EASTER STEAM

KIDS - 0-4 yrs FREE, 5-15 yrs £1!

30 Mar to 2 April - Enjoy a leisurely heritage train ride along the Chiltern foothills. Sit back, relax and enjoy the lovely scenery, see the steam drift past your window and watch out for the Red Kites whirling overhead. Steam-hauled trains depart Chinnor at 11.00, 12.15, 13.30, 15.00 and 16.30. Fares: Adult 16-59yrs £12, Senior 60+yrs £10, Child 5-15yrs £1, 0-4 yrs Free. *See website for all details. Free car parking, tea room and souvenir shop at Chinnor station.*

Looking Further Ahead & *Diary Dates*

14 April - *Fish & Chip Quiz Night*, brain teasing fun & bar onboard*
05 to 07 May - *Teddy Bear Days, 5-15yrs with Teddy ride FREE*
12 May - *Murder Mystery Night*, Fish & Chip Supper, new lower price*
20 May - *Senior Specials, 60+ yrs travel for just £5*
26 May - *History & Nature Ride, Railcar, 5-15yrs just £1*
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Advertorial

'AutoScience' fun at the British Motor Museum this Easter!

Visitors are invited to join in with some 'cracking' fun activities this Easter at the British Motor Museum. Starting with a traditional Egg hunt over Easter weekend, followed by two weeks of 'AutoScience,' where the science that drives our cars is brought to life with live science shows, family tours, Technic workshops, and a Secret Mission family trail.

Families can join in with a traditional Easter Egg hunt (with a motoring twist of course!) over the Easter weekend from 30 March – 2 April. Plus there will be daily drop in craft activities suitable for all the family.

The AutoScience Easter activities will run from 3 - 15 April. The AutoScience Live shows take place every day at 11am (Science of KAPOW!), 2.15pm (Science of Speed) and 3pm (Science of KAPOW!). Each show lasts 25 minutes and is full of cool interactive demonstrations by our 'mad scientists' Professor Pickle and Doctor Pumpkin as they explain the science that drives our cars.

Visitors can also join Professor Pickle or Doctor Pumpkin on the AutoScience Family Tour which takes place every day at 1.30pm and gives families an insight to the Museum in a fun and relaxed way lasting no more than 20mins.

For LEGO® Technic fans, AutoScience Technic Workshops will take place daily from 10am to 3pm, a chance to get hands-on to design, build and test your own LEGO® Technic machine. Race it along the 'Track' with the fastest car of the day winning the title 'Champion Designer' as well as a prize.

The AutoScience Secret Mission Trail also runs daily, just pick up a trail sheet from the Family Station and follow the photo clues around the Museum to find the seven Secret Mission boxes – solve the answers to collect a reward sticker.

Emma Rawlinson, Life Long Learning Officer for the British Motor Museum stated "From Easter Egg hunts to AutoScience shows with our very own 'mad professor' - as well as family tours, trails, and craft activities, we have plenty to keep the whole family entertained this Easter whatever the weather!".

All activities are included in Museum admission and are suitable for 3 years plus with adult supervision. During busy periods family activities may move to a timed ticket basis. To avoid disappointment please check on arrival with the Family Station as places are limited and are subject to availability. For more information about Easter activities please visit www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/events/family-activities or call 01926 641188.

Oxy Oriental

Easter at Oxy Oriental

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

Salads
Prawn Crackers
Aromatic Lamb with Trimmings
Sesame Prawn Toast
Deep fried Won Ton
Soups
Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
Onion Rings
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Lemon Chicken
Deep Fried Chicken Wing
Vegetable Curry Samosa
Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger.

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Beef with Black Bean Sauce
Malaysian Chicken Curry
Vegetable Foo Yung
Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
Mushroom with Oyster Sauce
Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sauce
Deep Fried Aubergines
Fried Rice
Boil Rice
Chips
Noodles in Special Soy Sauce
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EVENING
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An Eggcellent Easter

Easter and the history of Ostara – The Spring Equinox

The word Ostara is just one of the names for the celebration of the Spring Equinox on March 21. The origin of the word is actually from Eostre, a Germanic goddess of spring. Of course, it's also the same time as the Christian Easter celebration, and in the Jewish faith, Passover takes place as well. For early Pagans in the Germanic countries, this was a time to celebrate planting and the new crop season.

Typically, the Celtic people did not celebrate Ostara as a holiday, although they were very much in tune with the changing of the seasons.

Spring equinox is a time for fertility and sowing seeds, and so nature's fertility goes a little crazy.

In medieval societies in Europe, the March hare was viewed as a major fertility symbol. This is a species of rabbit that is nocturnal most of the year, but in March when mating season begins, there are bunnies everywhere all day long. The female of the species can conceive a second litter while still carrying the first. As if that wasn't enough, the males tend to get frustrated when rebuffed by their mates and are known to bounce around erratically when discouraged.

This is a good time of year to start your planting any seedlings. If you grow a herb garden, start getting the soil ready for late spring. Celebrate the balance of light and dark as the sun begins to tip the scales, and the return of new growth is near.

Many modern Pagans mark Ostara as a time of renewal and rebirth. Take some time to celebrate the new life that surrounds you in nature–walk in a park, lay in the grass, hike through a forest. As you do so, observe all the new things beginning around you–plants, flowers, insects, birds. Meditate upon the ever-moving Wheel of the Year, and celebrate the change of seasons.

dandelions-in-front-of-a-basket-with-easter-eggs%3B-children-in-the-background-coming-on-an-egg-hunt

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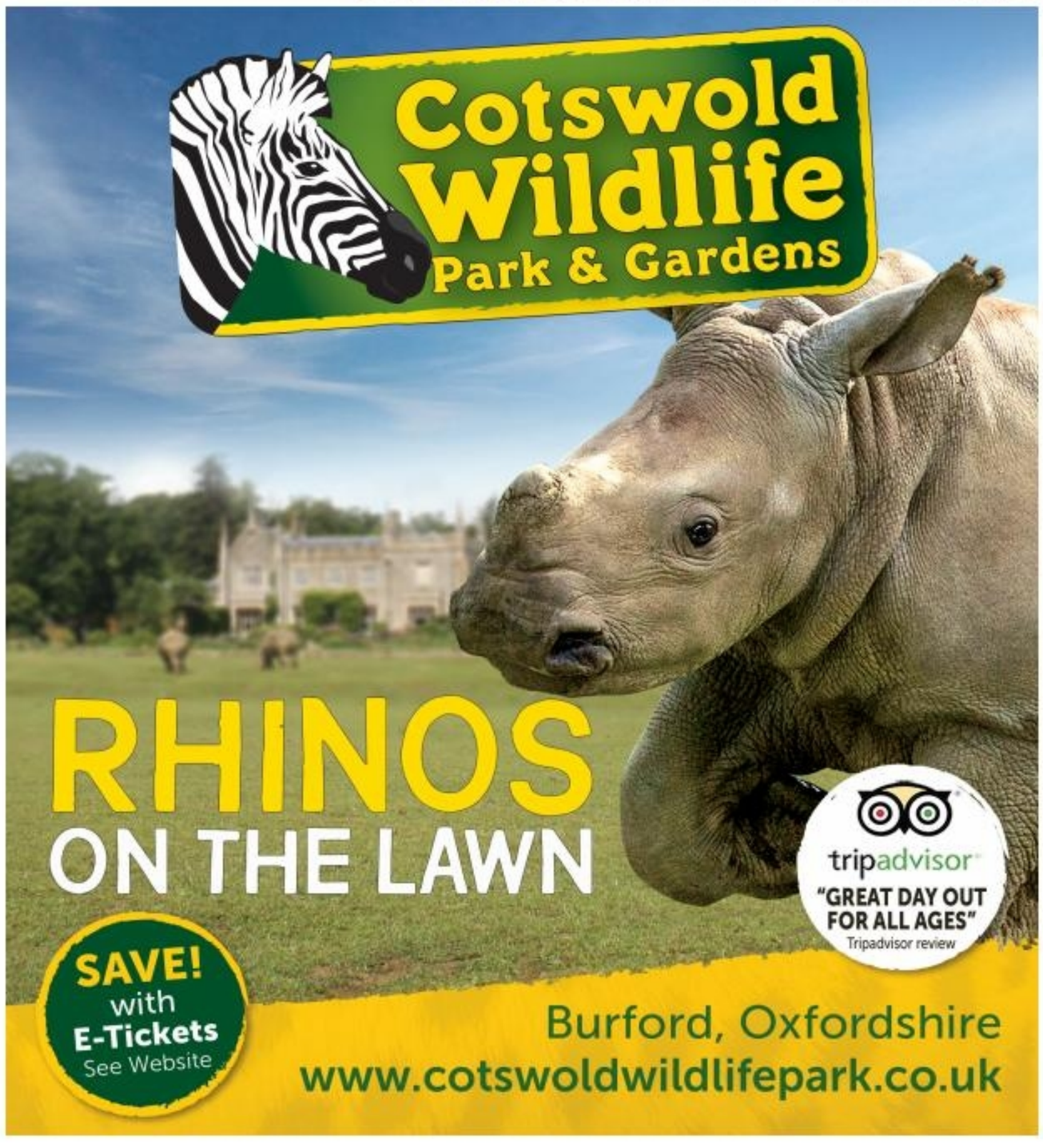

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An Eggcellent Easter

Advertorial

Chocolatiers at Oxford Castle & Prison!

OXFORD CASTLE & PRISON

"This Easter, families are invited to play at being master chocolatiers at Oxford Castle & Prison! Workshops will run throughout the bank holiday weekend offering the opportunity to ice and decorate your very own Easter egg. The chocolatey activity will take place in the castle's Key Learning Centre where there will also be treats, crafts and lots of Easter fun!

Elsewhere across the ancient castle site, join one of the attraction's regular 40-minute guided tours running every day of the Easter break (adults £11.50, children £7.95, concessions £9.75); take a short hike up the Castle Mound for breath-taking views over the city (entry to the mound £1 or free with a castle ticket) and find out about the brilliant work of the RSPCA who will be paying a visit to the castle yard over the course of the weekend."

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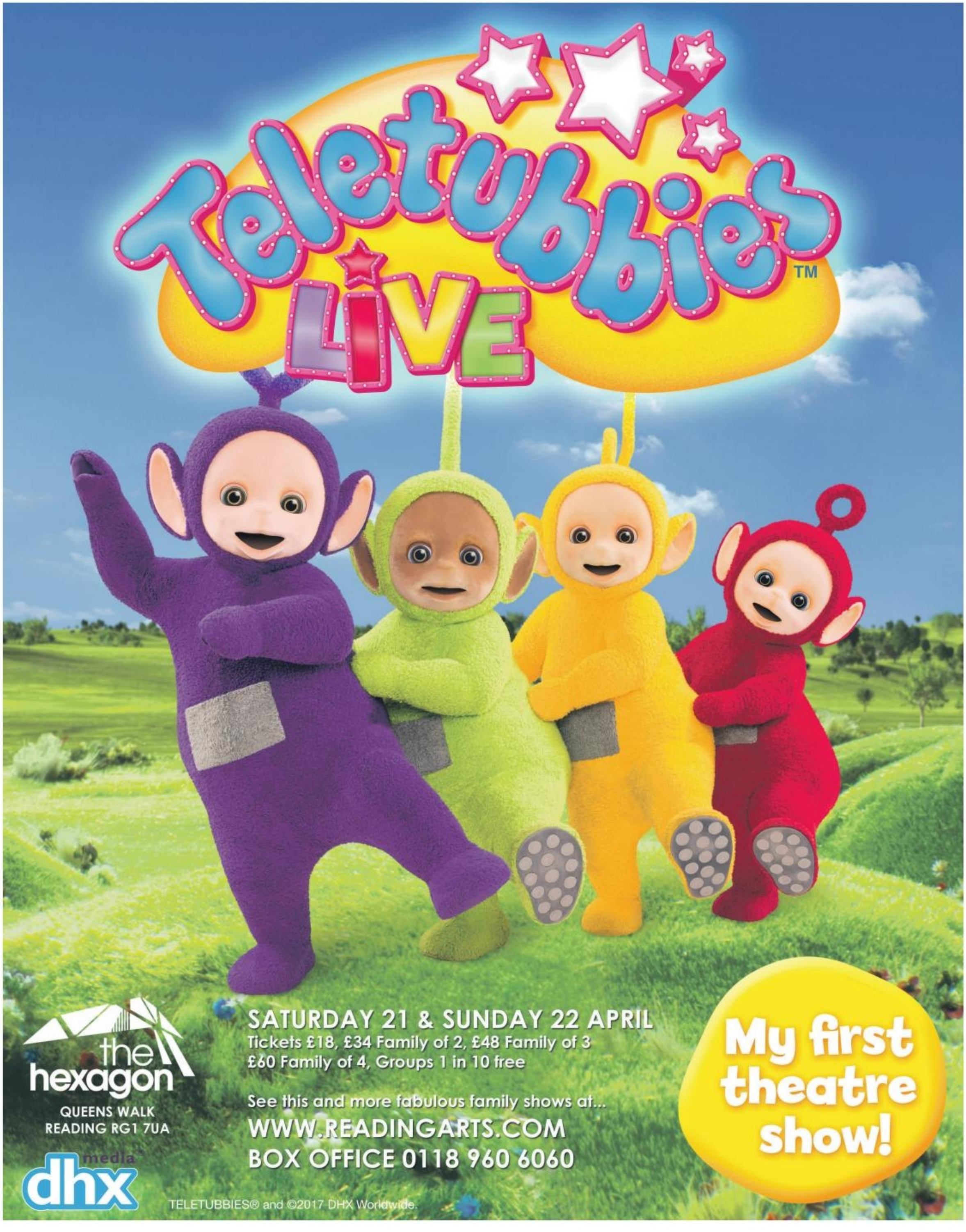
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Thursday March 29th

TOP TV

BBC 1

9.00pm Not Going Out

BBC 2

8.00pm Big Cats

ITV

9.00pm The Real Full Monty

Channel 4

8.00pm Location, Location, Location

Channel 5

7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook

MORNING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
9.15am	Holding Back the Years	**7.15am**	Coast	**8.30am**	Lorraine	**7.35am**	Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.20am**	Digby Dragon
10.00am	Homes Under the Hammer	**8.00am**	DIY SOS the Big Build	**9.25am**	The Jeremy Kyle Show	**8.00am**	Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.35am**	Rusty Rivets
11.00am	The Sheriffs are Coming	**9.00am**	Victoria Derbyshire	**10.30am**	This Morning	**8.30am**	Frasier	**8.55am**	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.45am	Claimed and Shamed	**11.00am**	BBC Newsroom Live			**10.05am**	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	**9.05am**	Mofy
						11.00am	Undercover Boss USA	**9.15am**	The Wright Stuff
								11.15am	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.15pm	Bargain Hunt	**12.00pm**	The Daily Politics	**12.30pm**	Loose Women	**12.00pm**	Channel 4 News	**12.10pm**	5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm	BBC News at One	**1.00pm**	Black Narcissus	**1.30pm**	ITV Lunchtime News	**12.05pm**	Come Dine with Me	**12.15pm**	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm	Regional News and Weather	**2.40pm**	Blitz Cities	**1.55pm**	ITV News London	**1.05pm**	Posh Pawnbrokers	**1.15pm**	Home and Away
1.45pm	Doctors	**3.10pm**	Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve	**2.00pm**	Judge Rinder	**2.10pm**	Countdown	**1.45pm**	Neighbours
2.15pm	Moving On	**4.10pm**	Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve	**3.00pm**	Dickinson's Real Deal	**3.00pm**	A Place in the Sun	**2.15pm**	NCIS
3.00pm	Escape to the Country	**5.10pm**	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	**4.00pm**	Tipping Point	**4.00pm**	A New Life in the Sun	**3.15pm**	Buried Secrets
3.45pm	Money for Nothing			**5.00pm**	The Chase	**5.00pm**	Four in a Bed	**5.00pm**	5 News at 5
4.30pm	Flog It!					**5.30pm**	Star Boot Sale	**5.30pm**	Neighbours
5.15pm	Pointless								

EVENING

6.00pm	BBC News at Six	**6.00pm**	Eggheads	**6.00pm**	ITV News London	**6.00pm**	The Simpsons	**6.00pm**	Home and Away
6.30pm	Regional News and Weather	**6.30pm**	The Repair Shop	**6.30pm**	ITV Evening News	**6.30pm**	Hollyoaks	**6.30pm**	5 News Tonight
7.00pm	The One Show	**7.00pm**	Mountain	**7.00pm**	Emmerdale	**7.00pm**	Channel 4 News	**7.00pm**	The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
7.30pm	EastEnders	**8.00pm**	Big Cats	**7.30pm**	Tonight	**8.00pm**	Location, Location, Location	**8.00pm**	Goodbye Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
8.00pm	MasterChef	**9.00pm**	Civilisations	**8.00pm**	Emmerdale	**9.00pm**	Indian Summer School	**9.00pm**	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9.00pm	Not Going Out	**10.00pm**	Match of the Day	**8.30pm**	Coronation Street	**10.00pm**	20 Kids and Counting	**10.00pm**	Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth
9.30pm	Still Game	**10.30pm**	Newsnight	**9.00pm**	The Real Full Monty	**11.05pm**	Gogglebox	**11.05pm**	Undercover Benefits Cheat
10.00pm	BBC News at Ten	**11.15pm**	Top Gear	**10.30pm**	ITV News at Ten and Weather	**12.05am**	One Born Every Minute	**12.00am**	Super Casino
10.30pm	Regional News and Weather	**12.15am**	MasterChef	**11.00pm**	ITV News London	**1.00am**	The Supervet	**3.10am**	Gps Behind Closed Doors
10.45pm	Unsolved	**12.45am**	Saving the British Bulldog	**11.15pm**	Kingpin	**1.55am**	Are You Autistic?	**4.00am**	Britain's Greatest Bridges
11.45pm	This Week	**1.45am**	Back in Time for Tea	**1.15am**	Jackpot247	**2.50am**	Dispatches	**4.45am**	House Doctor
12.30am	Weather for the Week Ahead	**2.45am**	This is BBC Two	**3.00am**	Tonight	**3.20am**	Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday	**5.10am**	The Great Artists
12.35am	BBC News	**6.00am**	Money for Nothing	**3.25am**	ITV Nightscreen				
6.00am	Breakfast	**6.45am**	Escape to the Country	**5.05am**	The Jeremy Kyle Show				

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Thurs 10th May *(Schools Performance)*, 10:30am

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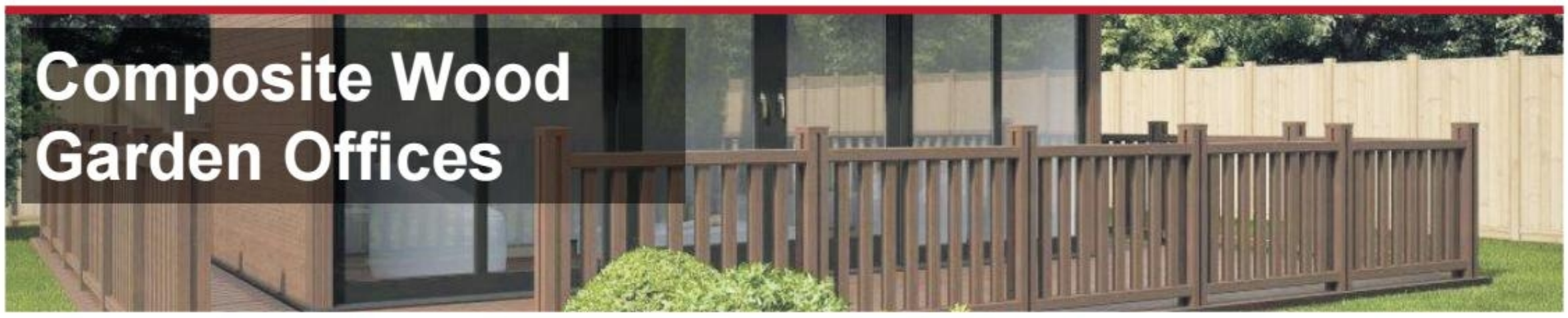

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Friday March 30th

TOP TV

BBC 1

1.25pm 102 Dalmatians

BBC 2

3.35pm The Robe

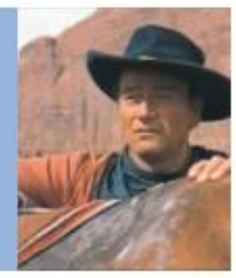
ITV

9.00pm Furious 7

Channel 4

7.30pm Food Unwrapped

Channel 5



3.15pm The Searchers

MORNING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
9.00am	Painting the Holy Land	**7.30am**	Nature's Weirdest Events	**7.20am**	Horrid Henry	**7.20am**	Frasier	**8.20am**	Digby Dragon
10.00am	Homes Under the Hammer	**8.30am**	Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings	**8.20am**	Wishfart	**7.50am**	Animals United	**8.35am**	Rusty Rivets
11.00am	The Sheriffs are Coming	**9.40am**	Muppets Most Wanted	**8.50am**	Scrambled! Sketch Show	**9.35am**	The Big Bang Theory	**8.55am**	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.45am	Claimed and Shamed	**11.15am**	Six Puppies and Us	**9.20am**	Mission Employable	**10.35am**	The Simpsons	**9.05am**	Mofy
				9.25am	K-9	**11.05am**	The Simpsons	**9.15am**	The Wright Stuff
				11.15am	King Ralph	**11.35am**	The Simpsons	**11.10am**	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.15pm	Bargain Hunt	**12.15pm**	Growing Up Wild	**1.15pm**	Countrywise	**12.05pm**	Romancing the Stone	**12.05pm**	5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm	BBC News at One	**1.15pm**	Coast	**1.40pm**	ITV Lunchtime News	**2.10pm**	Countdown	**12.10pm**	Home and Away
1.15pm	Regional News and Weather	**1.50pm**	Canterbury Cathedral	**1.50pm**	ITV News London	**3.00pm**	A Place in the Sun	**12.40pm**	Neighbours
1.25pm	102 Dalmatians	**2.50pm**	Talking Pictures	**2.00pm**	Judge Rinder	**4.00pm**	A New Life in the Sun	**1.10pm**	Shenandoah
3.00pm	Escape to the Country	**3.35pm**	The Robe	**3.00pm**	Dickinson's Real Deal	**5.00pm**	Four in a Bed	**3.15pm**	The Searchers
4.00pm	Money for Nothing	**5.45pm**	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	**4.00pm**	Tipping Point	**5.30pm**	Star Boot Sale	**5.30pm**	Neighbours
4.45pm	Flog It!			**5.00pm**	The Chase	**6.00pm**	The Simpsons		
5.45pm	Pointless					**6.30pm**	Hollyoaks		
						7.00pm	Channel 4 News		
						7.30pm	Food Unwrapped		
						8.00pm	Britain's Favourite Food		

EVENING

6.30pm	BBC News	**6.30pm**	Eggheads	**6.00pm**	Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs	**9.00pm**	Gogglebox	**6.00pm**	Home and Away
6.50pm	Regional News and Weather	**7.00pm**	The Repair Shop	**6.30pm**	ITV News London	**10.00pm**	Lee and Dean	**6.25pm**	5 News Tonight
7.00pm	The One Show	**7.30pm**	Mastermind	**6.45pm**	ITV Evening News	**10.30pm**	8 Out of 10 Cats	**6.35pm**	Kensington Palace: Fit for a Princess
7.40pm	The Silent Child	**8.30pm**	Gardeners' World	**7.00pm**	Emmerdale	**11.15pm**	Rob Beckett's Playing for Time	**8.00pm**	Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson
8.00pm	EastEnders	**9.00pm**	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	**7.30pm**	Coronation Street	**11.50pm**	Rude Tube	**9.00pm**	Jane Mcdonald and Friends
8.30pm	Room 101	**10.00pm**	Episodes	**8.00pm**	Love Your Garden	**12.45am**	The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death	**10.00pm**	Will and Grace
9.00pm	MasterChef	**10.30pm**	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	**8.30pm**	Coronation Street	**2.25am**	Electric Dreams	**10.30pm**	Football on 5
9.30pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys	**11.25pm**	The Way	**9.00pm**	Furious 7	**3.25am**	Damned	**11.30pm**	Football on 5
10.00pm	BBC News at Ten	**1.25am**	Civilisations	**11.30pm**	ITV News at Ten and Weather	**3.50am**	The Question Jury	**12.00am**	Super Casino
10.20pm	Regional News and Weather	**2.25am**	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	**11.50pm**	Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua	**4.45am**	Coast v Country	**3.10am**	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
10.30pm	Spooks: The Greater Good	**3.10am**	This is BBC Two	**12.40am**	The Durrells	**5.40am**	Streetmate	**4.00am**	The X Files
12.10am	Weather for the Week Ahead			**1.30am**	Jackpot247	**6.10am**	Marathon	**4.45am**	House Doctor
12.15am	BBC News					**6.40am**	Triathlon		
6.00am	Breakfast								

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Saturday March 31st

TOP TV

BBC 1

3.00pm Shrek Forever After

BBC 2

1.00pm Cromwell

ITV

10.15pm The Bourne Identity

Channel 4

9.00pm Taken 3

Channel 5

2.30pm Oklahoma!

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live	**8.00am** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds	**8.30am** Thunderbirds are Go	**7.55am** Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.55am** Noddy: Toyland Detective
11.30am Classic Mary Berry	**8.30am** Beyond Bionic	**9.05am** Wishfart	**8.50am** Frasier	**9.05am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
	9.00am Robot Wars	**9.25am** ITV News	**10.25am** The Big Bang Theory	**9.20am** Shimmer and Shine
	10.00am Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family and Me	**9.30am** Saturday Morning with James Martin	**10.55am** The Big Bang Theory	**9.40am** Digby Dragon
	11.00am Six Puppies and Us	**11.25am** Who's Doing the Dishes?	**11.20am** The Big Bang Theory	**9.55am** Peppa Pig
			11.50am The Simpsons	**10.10am** Gone with the Wind

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.00pm Football Focus	**12.00pm** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives	**12.25pm** ITV Lunchtime News	**12.20pm** The Simpsons	**2.30pm** Oklahoma!
1.00pm BBC News	**1.00pm** Cromwell	**12.30pm** The Harbour	**12.50pm** The Simpsons	**4.00pm** 5 News
1.15pm Bargain Hunt	**3.15pm** Canterbury Cathedral	**1.00pm** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	**1.20pm** Come Dine with Me	**4.05pm** Oklahoma!
2.00pm MasterChef	**4.15pm** The Secret Helpers	**1.30pm** Britain's Brightest Family	**2.20pm** Coast v Country	**5.15pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2.30pm MasterChef	**5.15pm** Big Cats	**2.00pm** Celebrity Catchphrase	**3.25pm** A Place in the Sun	
3.00pm Shrek Forever After		**3.00pm** Tenable	**4.25pm** A Place in the Sun	
4.25pm Final Score		**4.00pm** Tipping Point	**5.30pm** The Secret Life of the Zoo	
5.15pm A Question of Sport		**5.00pm** The Chase		
5.45pm Doodlebugs				

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00pm Ready or Not	**6.15pm** Easter from King's	**6.00pm** ITV Evening News	**6.30pm** Channel 4 News	**6.15pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand
6.30pm BBC News	**7.30pm** Dad's Army	**6.15pm** ITV News London	**7.00pm** Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	**7.00pm** Cruising with Jane McDonald
6.40pm Regional News and Weather	**8.00pm** Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs	**6.30pm** You've Been Framed!	**8.00pm** Britain at Low Tide	**8.00pm** Inside Windsor Castle
6.45pm Pointless	**9.00pm** Hamlet	**7.00pm** Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away	**9.00pm** Taken 3	**8.55pm** 5 News Weekend
7.35pm Who Dares Wins	**12.15am** Civilisations	**8.30pm** The Voice UK	**11.15pm** AVP: Alien vs. Predator	**9.00pm** Most Shocking Sexist TV of All Time
8.20pm Casualty	**1.15am** Therese Desqueyroux	**10.00pm** ITV News	**1.00am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	**10.30pm** 20 Moments That Rocked the 80s
9.10pm Troy: Fall of a City	**3.00am** This is BBC Two	**10.15pm** The Bourne Identity	**1.45am** Hollyoaks Omnibus	**12.05am** Super Casino
10.10pm BBC News	**6.20am** Coast	**12.20am** Goodwood Members' Meeting Highlights	**3.55am** The Question Jury	**3.10am** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel
10.30pm Match of the Day	**6.50am** Glorious Gardens From Above	**1.10am** Jackpot247	**4.50am** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	**4.00am** The X Files
12.00am Forget Me Not		**3.00am** Babushka	**5.45am** Streetmate	**4.45am** House Doctor
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead		**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen	**6.15am** King of Queens	
1.35am BBC News		**6.00am** Sooty		
6.00am Breakfast				

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Tue 20th Mar • 7.00pm
Rae Morris
+ Pauli

Sat 24th Mar • 6.30pm
Turin Brakes

Fri 30th Mar • 7.00pm
Super Hans

Fri 30th Mar • 11.00pm
White Magic Birthday Bash
Ft. Seani B, Allan Brando, Jah Will, 2Xclusive, Party Shot Movement

Sun 8th Apr • 7.00pm
3 Generations of Ska
+ Stranger Cole + Neville Staple Band
+ Sugary Staple + The AC30s + The Inflatables

Mon 9th Apr • 7.00pm
Dirty Sanchez
15 years of Dirty Sanchez live
feat. Lee Dainton & Matthew Pritchard

Sat 14th Apr • 6.30pm
The Blockheads
+ Chasing Daylight

Sat 14th Apr • 11.00pm
Darkzy UK Tour

Mon 16th Apr • 7.00pm
Little Comets

Wed 18th Apr • 7.00pm
Cabbage

Thur 19th Apr • 7.00pm
The White Buffalo
+ Alice Drinks The Kool-Aid

Fri 20th Apr • 6.30pm
Rejjie Snow
+ Eblast

Sat 21st Apr • 6.30pm
Isaac Gracie

Sun 22nd Apr • 7.00pm
MC Lars
+ Koo Koo Kanga Roo

Thu 26th Apr • 7.00pm
Will Heard

Thur 26th • 7.00pm
Don Broco

Fri 27th Apr • 6.30pm
Heather Small - The voice of M People

Sat 28th Apr • 6.30pm
UK Foo Fighers - Banging On the Ceiling Tour

Wed 2nd May • 6.30pm
Ocean Wisdom

Thur 3rd May • 7.00pm
Lower Than Atlantis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Rhys Lewis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Wilko Johnson
+ Hugh Cornwell Band

Fri 4th May • 11.00pm
Mighty Crown Far East Rulers

Sat 5th May • SOLD OUT • 6.00pm
Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls

Sun 6th May • 7.00pm
Mallory Knox

Mon 7th May • 7.00pm
The Bluetones
+ The Velvet Hands

Thur 10th May • 7.00pm
DMA's

Fri 11th May • 6.30pm
Marmozets

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Cold Black & Death Remains

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Seether

Wed 16th May • 6.30pm
Barrence Whitfield & The Savages

Wed 23rd May • 6.30pm
Coco and the Butterfields

Sun 27th May • 6.30pm
Cocaine Piss

Fri 1st Jun • 7.00pm
Carcer City

Sat 2nd Jun • 7.00pm
OMYO

Thu 7th Jun • 7.00pm
The Wedding Present
"Tommy" 30th Anniversary Tour

Sat 9th Jun • 7.00pm
A Band Called Malice
The Definitive Tribute to The Jam

Thur 14th Jun • 7.00pm
Sona Jobarteh

Fri 15th Jun • 6.30pm
Nick Heyward
+ Pugwash

Fri 22nd Jun • 7.00pm
Zodiac Reunion Party
Disques Voge, Sky Larkin, Transformation, Osprey

Fri 14th Sep • 6.00pm
Molotov Jukebox

Sat 22nd Sep • 6.30pm
Dressed To Kill - A Tribute To KISS
+ Electric Circus (A Tribute to W.A.S.P)

Sat 6th Oct • 6.30pm
The Smyths - Unite and Take Over Tour 2018

Fri 12th Oct • 6.30pm
Antarctic Monkeys

Sat 13th Oct • 6.30pm
Britpop Boys

Thu 18th Oct • 7.00pm
The Daniel Wakeford Experience

Sat 27th Oct • 6.30pm
Guns 2 Roses

Sat 17th Nov • 6.30pm
Definitely Mightbe
Oasis tribute

Tue 27th Nov • 7.00pm
Shame

Fri 7th Oct • 6.30pm
Pearl Jam UK

Sun 2nd Dec • 7.00pm
Bjorn Again

Sat 22nd Dec • 6.30pm
Faith – The George Michael Legacy

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Sunday April 1st

BBC 1

TOP TV

12.40pm Shaun the Sheep Movie

MORNING

9.00am Painting the Holy Land
10.00am Easter Day From Sheffield Cathedral
11.00am Urbi et Orbi
11.25am The Silent Child
11.45am Bargain Hunt

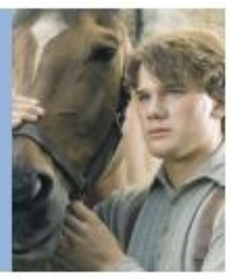
AFTERNOON

12.25pm BBC News
12.40pm Shaun the Sheep Movie
2.00pm MasterChef
3.00pm MasterChef
4.00pm MasterChef
4.30pm Escape to the Country
5.00pm Songs of Praise
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

EVENING

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm The Generation Game
9.00pm Ordeal by Innocence
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm The Women's Football Show
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.10am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2



4.45pm War Horse

MORNING

8.35am Countryfile
9.30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.00am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.45am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

AFTERNOON

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Coast
1.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
2.15pm Canterbury Cathedral
3.15pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor
4.45pm War Horse

EVENING

7.00pm Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall
8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Unsealed: Conspiracy Files
10.00pm Mock the Week
10.35pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
11.00pm Selma
1.00am Countryfile
1.55am Holby City
2.55am This is BBC Two
6.15am The Repair Shop
6.45am Money for Nothing

ITV

1.40pm Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

MORNING

8.30am Spy School
9.05am Adventure Time
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Countrywise
10.30am The Voice UK

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.40pm Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
3.45pm Catchphrase
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.45pm ITV News London
5.00pm Tipping Point

EVENING

6.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
7.00pm Change Your Tune
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Sherlock Holmes
12.40am Marcella
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.10am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.25am Super 4

Channel 4

4.00pm Dumbo

MORNING

7.05am King of Queens
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.35pm The Simpsons
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.30pm The Simpsons
3.00pm The Simpsons
3.30pm Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade
4.00pm Dumbo
5.15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

EVENING

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Homes by the Med
8.00pm Escape to the Chateau
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm The Green Mile
1.25am The Supervet
2.20am Coastal Walks with My Dog
3.15am KOTV Boxing Weekly
3.40am The Question Jury
4.35am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
5.30am Streetmate
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

2.25pm Space Cowboys

MORNING

8.20am Peppa Pig
8.40am Peppa Pig
8.45am Thomas and Friends
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Police Interceptors
11.40am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.40pm Joe Kidd
2.25pm Space Cowboys
4.55pm Stargate
5.55pm 5 News

EVENING

6.00pm Stargate
7.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Bruce Almighty
10.00pm 5 News
10.05pm Bruce Almighty
11.05pm Just Go with it
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel
4.00am The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant
4.45am House Doctor

Monday April 2nd

BBC 1

TOP TV

5.15pm Pointless

MORNING

9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.25pm Father Brown
2.10pm Garden Rescue
2.55pm Escape to the Country
3.40pm Money for Nothing
4.25pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Celebrity Mastermind
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm MasterChef
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry
9.00pm Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Michael McIntyre
11.30pm Live at the Apollo
12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC 2

TOP TV

8.00pm Only Connect

MORNING

7.30am Nature's Weirdest Events
8.30am Gnomeo and Juliet
9.45am Rise of the Guardians
11.15am The Super League Show

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Funny Lady
2.15pm Trust Me, I'm a Vet
3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.15pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Top Gear
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Dave Allen at Peace
10.00pm Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian
11.00pm Z for Zachariah
12.30am Unsealed: Conspiracy Files
1.30am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
2.00am Imagine...
3.30am This is BBC Two

ITV

TOP TV

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs

MORNING

7.20am Horrid Henry
8.20am Wishfart
8.50am Scrambled!
9.20am Mission Employable
9.25am Dragonheart
11.25am Free Willy

AFTERNOON

1.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.50pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Kyle Files
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Marcella
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.20pm The Real Full Monty
11.50pm The Durrells
12.40am The Kyle Files
1.05am Jackpot247

Channel 4

TOP TV

9.00pm The Island with Bear Grylls

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am The Big Bang Theory
8.55am Thunder and the House of Magic
10.35am The Simpsons

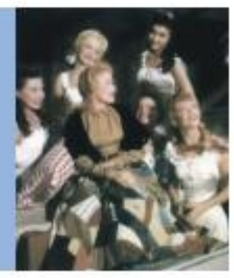
AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Jewel of the Nile
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm The Million Pound Holiday Club
8.30pm Travel Man
9.00pm The Island with Bear Grylls
10.00pm Kiss Me First
11.05pm Greg Davies: The Back of My Mum's Head
12.05am Lee and Dean
12.35am How to Get a Council House
1.30am Britain's Favourite Food
2.25am Coastal Walks with My Dog

Channel 5



TOP TV

1.10pm Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

MORNING

8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand

AFTERNOON

12.05pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.10pm Home and Away
12.40pm Neighbours
1.10pm Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
3.10pm Oliver!
4.10pm 5 News
4.15pm Oliver!

EVENING

6.00pm Neighbours
6.30pm Home and Away
6.55pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm Paddington Station 24/7
10.00pm Police UK: Armed and Deadly
11.05pm Caught on Camera
11.30pm Football on 5
12.30am Football on 5
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel

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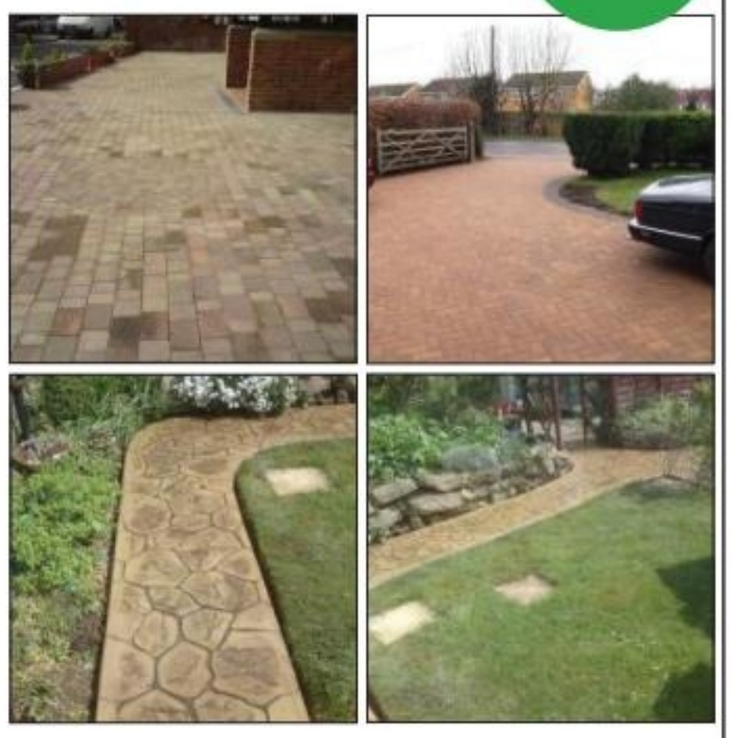

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YORKSHIRE GARDENS - HARROGATE

Mon 4th June 2018
5 Days: £429

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CUMBRIAN GEM

Mon 2nd July 2018
5 Days: £399

Includes Lake District Cruise and Roman Fort!

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PURE SCOTLAND

Sun 22nd July 2018
7 Days: £589

Includes Haddo House, Pitmedden Gardens, Maritime Museum, Royal Deeside Railway & Drum Castle.

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Advertisement Feature

Why use a mortgage adviser when you can do it yourself?

I am often asked what a mortgage adviser does and why people choose to use one instead of contacting lenders themselves or using their banks.

There are many reasons to use a mortgage adviser and they are all to do with saving; save money, save time and even save on making mistakes that will end in disappointment. But, the main reason is that the purchase of your home will probably be the largest financial commitment you ever make, and mortgage advisers are not only experts on what products would be most suitable for you, they have access to lenders you won't find on the high street.

If you decide to phone a few mortgage companies for an idea of what they'd lend you and what it would cost you monthly, you would be limiting yourself to the companies you know, and are happy to contact, until you run out of time or patience. They are not able to advise you on issues such as variable or fixed rates, and if fixed for how long? They can only give you the facts. The banks are the same. They will only be able to give you information about their mortgage products, and again they won't be able to advise you.

Even after you have gathered the relevant paper work; payslips, P60s, bonus information, proof of ID, household budget etc. you may be declined for a range of reasons you're unaware of. This can be a huge disappointment when so much time and effort has gone into that application.

Initial mortgage advice is usually free, and your mortgage adviser will spend time assessing your budget, future plans, and any issues that may arise with your application such as credit history. They can help you decide your best mortgage options and approach multiple lenders on your behalf, including non-high street lenders until they have found a suitable lender and product.

So, it is worth consulting an expert who will inevitably save you time and possibly money in the long term by finding you a deal more suitable for you than those offered by high-street lenders.

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home or property. Your home or property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it.

You may have to pay an early repayment charge to your existing lender if you re-mortgage.

Michael Alberts CeMAP is the Principal Mortgage Adviser at NGI Residential Mortgages. www.ngiresidential.co.uk Tel: 01993 706403

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NGI Residential Mortgages Ltd is registered in England and Wales under reference 09885994.
Registered office address: 47 Larch Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 1AG.

Tuesday April 3rd

BBC 1

7.00pm The One Show

MORNING

9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Moving On
2.30pm Escape to the Continent
3.30pm Money for Nothing
4.15pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm Come Home
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm This Country
11.15pm R Kelly: Sex, Girls and Videotapes
12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve

MORNING

7.15am Bargain Hunt
8.00am Hugh's Wild West
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am Westminster in Review

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Golf
1.00pm The Super League Show
1.45pm Plan it, Build it
2.15pm Trust Me, I'm a Vet
3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.15pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs
8.00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys
9.00pm Hospital
10.00pm Cunk on Britain
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
12.15am Great British Railway Journeys
12.45am MasterChef
1.45am Murder, Mystery and My Family
2.30am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
3.30am This is BBC Two

ITV

2.00pm Judge Rinder

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm 100 Year Old Driving School
8.00pm Paul O'Grady
9.00pm Last Laugh in Vegas
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm The Real Full Monty
12.05am Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
12.55am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

10.20pm Gogglebox

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am The Simpsons

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
9.15pm Seven Year Switch
10.20pm Gogglebox
11.20pm Indian Summer School
12.20am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.10am Britain's Favourite Food
2.05am The Million Pound Holiday Club
3.00am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

Channel 5

10.00pm Sabotage

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Abducting Zoe
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9.00pm Everest: World's Greatest Mountain
10.00pm Sabotage
11.00pm 5 News
11.05pm Sabotage
12.10am Police Interceptors
1.10am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel

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Wednesday April 4th

TOP TV

BBC 1

8.00pm MasterChef

BBC 2

1.15pm The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food

ITV

3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal

Channel 4

8.00pm The Supervet

Channel 5

11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

MORNING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
9.15am	Oxford Street Revealed	**7.15am**	Bargain Hunt	**8.30am**	Lorraine	**7.10am**	3rd Rock from the Sun	**8.20am**	Floogals
10.00am	Homes Under the Hammer	**8.00am**	See Hear	**9.25am**	The Jeremy Kyle Show	**7.35am**	Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.35am**	Digby Dragon
10.30am	Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony	**8.30am**	Classic Mary Berry	**10.30am**	This Morning	**8.30am**	Frasier	**8.55am**	Rusty Rivets
		9.00am	Victoria Derbyshire			**10.05am**	Ramsay's Hotel Hell	**9.05am**	Mofy
		11.00am	Street Auction			**11.00am**	The Simpsons	**9.15am**	The Wright Stuff
		11.45am	Claimed and Shamed			**11.30am**	The Simpsons	**11.15am**	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
1.30pm	BBC News	**12.15pm**	Bargain Hunt	**12.30pm**	Loose Women	**12.00pm**	Channel 4 News	**12.10pm**	5 News Lunchtime
2.00pm	Regional News and Weather	**1.15pm**	The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	**1.30pm**	ITV Lunchtime News	**12.05pm**	Come Dine with Me	**12.15pm**	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2.15pm	Moving On	**2.00pm**	Trust Me, I'm a Vet	**1.55pm**	ITV News London	**1.05pm**	Posh Pawnbrokers	**1.15pm**	Home and Away
3.00pm	Escape to the Country	**3.00pm**	Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve	**2.00pm**	Judge Rinder	**2.10pm**	Countdown	**1.45pm**	Neighbours
3.30pm	Money for Nothing	**4.00pm**	Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise	**3.00pm**	Dickinson's Real Deal	**3.00pm**	A Place in the Sun	**2.15pm**	NCIS
4.15pm	Flog It!	**5.00pm**	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	**4.00pm**	Tipping Point	**4.00pm**	A New Life in the Sun	**3.15pm**	First-Class Fear
5.15pm	Pointless			**5.00pm**	The Chase	**5.00pm**	Four in a Bed	**5.00pm**	5 News at 5
						5.30pm	Star Boot Sale	**5.30pm**	Neighbours

EVENING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
6.00pm	BBC News at Six	**6.00pm**	Eggheads	**6.00pm**	ITV News London	**6.00pm**	The Simpsons	**6.00pm**	Home and Away
6.30pm	Regional News and Weather	**6.30pm**	The Repair Shop	**6.30pm**	ITV Evening News	**6.30pm**	Hollyoaks	**6.30pm**	5 News Tonight
7.00pm	The One Show	**7.00pm**	Today at the Games	**7.00pm**	Emmerdale	**7.00pm**	Channel 4 News	**7.00pm**	The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm	MasterChef	**8.00pm**	The Secret Helpers	**7.30pm**	Coronation Street	**8.00pm**	The Supervet	**8.00pm**	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm	My Dad, the Peace Deal and Me	**9.00pm**	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	**8.00pm**	Britain's Brightest Family	**9.00pm**	One Born Every Minute	**9.00pm**	Housing Yorkshire: Somewhere Called Home
10.00pm	BBC News at Ten	**9.50pm**	Live at the Apollo	**8.30pm**	Coronation Street	**10.00pm**	First Dates	**10.00pm**	Why Do Men Earn More Than Women?
10.30pm	Regional News and Weather	**10.30pm**	Newsnight	**9.00pm**	Benidorm	**11.05pm**	Gogglebox	**11.05pm**	Murder on the Internet
10.45pm	A Question of Sport	**11.15pm**	Golf	**10.00pm**	ITV News at Ten and Weather	**12.05am**	Live From Abbey Road Classics	**12.05am**	When Kids Kill
11.15pm	Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid	**11.45pm**	Hospital	**10.30pm**	ITV News London	**12.35am**	Seven Year Switch	**1.00am**	Super Casino
12.15am	Commonwealth Games 2018	**12.45am**	See Hear	**10.45pm**	UEFA Champions League Highlights	**1.30am**	Multiplicity	**3.10am**	Inside Windsor Castle
2.30am	Commonwealth Games 2018	**1.15am**	MasterChef	**11.45pm**	Play to the Whistle	**3.30am**	The Question Jury	**4.00am**	Cruising with Jane McDonald
6.00am	Breakfast	**2.15am**	The Funeral Murders	**12.35am**	Sunday Night at the Palladium	**4.25am**	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	**4.45am**	House Doctor
		3.15am	Weather for the Week Ahead	**1.25am**	Jackpot247	**5.20am**	Streetmate		

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

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Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids, no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve the best results.

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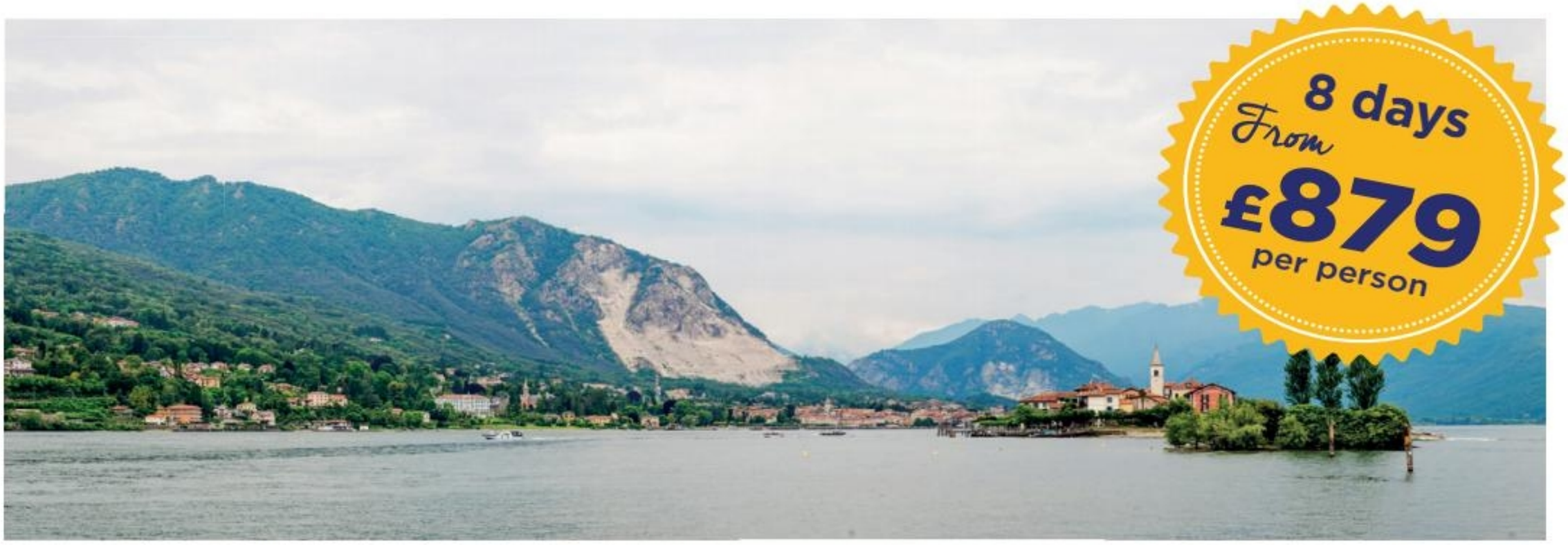

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Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

Spring into a new career this month?

As Easter approaches, it's a time to celebrate new life, the flowers sprouting in gardens hedgerows promising sunny days ahead. Cats may have nine lives – so ancient folklore tells us – but people aren't so fortunate. That means it's all the more important that we spend the one we have in the best way we each of us can.

And just as nature's buds unfurl, if you aren't already in a life you love, then the spring is a great time to look ahead, turn over a new leaf and make a fresh start.

Most of us spend far more of our waking hours at work as we do at 'leisure' and so having a job you enjoy makes the world feel a far better place. And there are few roles more heartwarming than making people's lives better - seeing a smile light up someone's face when you arrive and knowing how much they appreciate your help.

If that sounds appealing to you, then consider a move to into social care where your support makes such a difference to other people's lives that it lifts your own day, day in and day out.

We are hosting a series of friendly 'Come-and-find-out-more' events in the Day and Nightcare Assistance offices in Oxford, Banbury, Wantage and Witney in April where if you think this might be for you, you can come and chat to members of the local team and find out what a new start could offer you, what a working day might entail as a careworker and whether it would suit you.

Witney, 46 Market Place by Church Green's war memorial, OX28 6AL, Thurs 12th April 5.30-7.30pm Join us for a glass of wine and some nibbles!

Or come for a cup of tea and a slice of cake in

Banbury, 13 Market Place, OX16 5LG, Wed 18th April 10-2pm

Oxford, 9 Hollow Way, Cowley OX4 2NA, Thurs 19th April 10-2pm

Wantage, 1 Alfred Street, OX12 9AA, Thurs 19th April 10-2pm

We are looking for people who have high standards and compassionate values, love talking to people and thrive in a team while keeping their own independence, and we are looking for new team members in Abingdon, Bicester, Carterton, Didcot, Kidlington, Wallingford and Wheatley as well as local to our friendly offices. If you can drive and have access to a car, we'll provide all the training you need to get going. And the travel expenses you'll receive will cover petrol and also make a generous contribution to the car's running costs.

Day and Nightcare Assistance are small enough to be local and big enough to make a difference, and we're looking to forward to meeting you. Or you can get in touch right away.

Happy Easter!

COULD YOU ADD SUNSHINE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S DAYS?

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Day and Nightcare Assistance

Lies, damned lies and Oxford property price statistics!

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Last week the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a report on house prices. In the report, Oxford was singled-out as a market that had experienced a 4.7% fall in house prices. Even London had done better, much better!

I place reliance on Land Registry data – information that is based on the houses and apartments that have sold. That data is reporting that Oxford house prices have increased year on year by 3% based on data for the year to February 2018. A massive 7.7% spread between two valued and supposedly trustworthy sources.

So why the 7.7% spread in house price changes?

The ONS report is based on data just for the month of January i.e. January 2018 vs January 2017. In-month Oxford sale prices can be rather erratic, and also subject to later revision, once the data is confirmed for all completed sales. To illustrate this point, the ONS reports that Oxford properties increased in value by 0.7% in December 2017 but fell by 4.7% in January 2018 – quite a difference, I think you will agree. In December the ONS also reported that prices in London's Kensington and Chelsea had fallen by 10.7% only to revise that to minus 6.9% in their January report.

So why is the ONS data so volatile? It is largely because of the way the data is collated. Registrations of properties following a sale take some time, often reaching the Land Registry months after the sale is completed. As a result, the data improves in accuracy over time requiring the ONS to recalculate their index figures each month for previous months.

At the time of writing the Land Registry has just 41 sales registered in Oxford for January 2018 compared to 117 in January 2017. That is a small sample, and one that can be significantly affected by the actual properties included - for example, the January 2017 data contains a few higher value properties with a sale price over £1.2m. If the January 2018 data contains more 2 or 3 bed roomed properties nearer the Oxford average, it is bound to result in a poor comparison with January 2017.

It is much better to use data that is based on rolling a 12-month period so each month's data is based on movement over the last 12 months, ensuring a much larger sample and avoiding erratic in month changes.

But, what can the ONS data tell us? In isolation not very much But, together with longer-term trend data there is a definite slowing in the rate of annual growth in Oxford's property prices. Over the last 4 or 5 months, the long-term trend of growth has progressively reduced from c6% down to the February 3%. This together with a continued reduction in total transactions points to a market where property is expensive, and where home owners either can't afford to move, or are choosing to stay put and improve the property they have. It also points to a market where buyers are taking their time to commit, reflecting a shortage in choice and caution given the gearing required to proceed.

For home owners in a hurry to move, sensible pricing and targeted marketing are critical.

For more commentary on Oxford's property market visit www.Oxford-PropertyBlog.co.uk

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Whilst it hasn't felt very Spring-like in recent weeks, the Easter weekend is almost upon us and that traditionally signals the start of the DIY season.

With lighter, brighter and hopefully warmer evenings ahead, you may even get out and about to explore your local area and consider your next move on the property ladder. If this is the case, you'll want to ensure that your current home is as marketable as possible so if you're planning some DIY projects over the long weekend, you may wish to bear the following in mind.

First impressions count! Ensure the kerb appeal of your home is positive. After all the recent inclement weather, your garden is likely to need some TLC. Time spent collecting up any debris that has been blown around; pots that are lying forlornly on their sides and giving the fence a fresh lick of paint can do wonders.

As the weeks pass, and Spring really makes itself known, you'll also want to keep on top of mowing the lawn and pruning the plants, but don't worry if you don't have green fingers – a few simple pot plants can really add that all important welcome to your home.

The external elevations of your property itself may also need some attention. Now is the time to consider whether a fresh lick of paint would be a worthwhile investment and don't forget that simply cleaning the windows can really add some all-important sparkle.

Once inside, the smell of freshly baked bread and recently brewed coffee have been considered for many years as the key to creating a homely feel. Let's be honest though, how many of us have the time or inclination to go this far? Simply you simply can't beat fresh air, so when the mercury rises sufficiently, throw open some windows and doors and before a viewing.

Accepting, however, that we may still be a few weeks away from sufficient warmth to allow the windows to be thrown open, why not use the long weekend to carry out a thorough spring clean and de-clutter?

When you market your home for a sale it's the bricks and mortar that you're selling along with the overall ambience and ability for the viewer to imagine building their own life there. They'll need to see beyond your own contents to achieve this though, so now is a great time to get rid of any old furniture that you're no longer going to need or want. A neat, tidy home will give a clean, fresh impression, as well as make rooms seem larger.

Finally, if you're a dab hand with a roller and brush and enjoy nothing more than giving a room a fresh lick of paint we're increasingly seeing that neutral, yet contemporary, shades such as grey are popular choices. If you've previously gone too bold, then a room can be transformed with a quick paint-job and provide the purchaser with a blank canvas from which to start building their own memories.

If you're considering selling your home, then why not pop in to your local Andrews branch (there are five across Oxfordshire) or visit us online at www.andrewsonline.co.uk for expert tips on how to maximise the value and appearance of your home.

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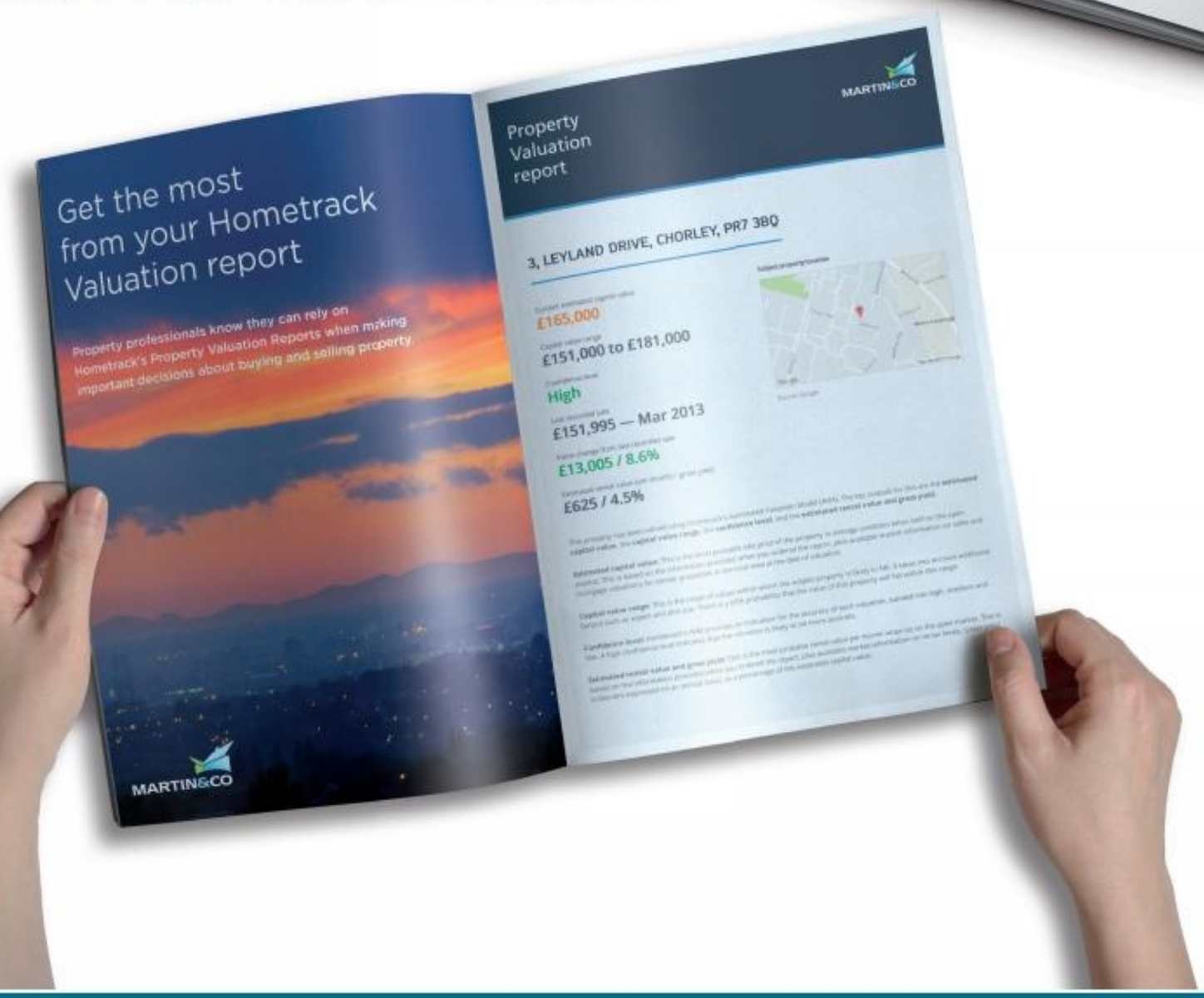

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SKODA Octavia VRS 2.0 TSi (245)

Perfect for a family and for business

By **Tony Yates**

MANY people still say that Skoda is nothing more than a cheaper version of a VW – and of course I disagree with this very much, because Skoda have proved to me over the last few years that they are more than capable of standing on their own two feet and I for one now look at Skoda as an individual company which produces fantastic cars. I mean just look at the new Octavia VRS. It's an awesome car and it deserves to be right in the spotlight because it's utterly brilliant in every way.

The new Skoda Octavia is more than capable of standing on its own two feet.

Power and efficiency

The 2.0-litre TSi petrol engine has a 0-62 time of 6.4 seconds and a top speed of 155mph. Fuel consumption is also good, giving a combined figure of 42.8mpg. So, firstly, how well does it get a move on.

Basically, like a scalded Cat if I'm being honest. I'm not kidding here folks it's astonishingly quick. The vRS for me is the total sleeper car - so, be warned, if you do decide to take it on, you will almost certainly be crossing the finish line in second place.

On the road

The 245PS engine that's fitted to the vRS is enthusiastic and pretty much perfect. Also, into the corners, the chassis feels poised and tight, even when dealing with all the potholes and bumps on some of our worst roads. Plus when the tarmac gets twisty, the chassis firms up to give you maximum grip in and out of every corner. The steering also feels light, direct and is perfectly balanced with plenty of feedback on what the road beneath you is doing.

Interior & technology

First off I'm so glad to see that the designers at Skoda have paid a lot of attention to the detail inside the cabin of the vRS and thankfully it now feels more refreshing and modern than the previous vRS model I tested a while ago. Also, the seats are really comfy and the controls are well set out – plus the addition of the cabin mood lighting on the door panels is a lovely touch and something that helps soothe the mind.

On the inside; there's plenty of standard equipment, which includes dual-zone air conditioning, cruise control, acoustic rear parking sensors, Amundsen touchscreen satellite navigation system, driving mode selection (eco/comfort/sport/custom), driver fatigue sensor, electro-mechanical front locking differential, driver's seat with memory function and 19" Xtreme gloss black alloy wheels.

Plus you also get, ESC incl, EBV, MSR, ASR, EDS, HBA and DSR ESBS, TSA, MKB, XDS all as standard along with more kit than you will ever need. That's what I love about Skoda, they are not afraid to give you everything you will ever need, right there when you need it.

Space inside the Octavia is very good - easily managing to fit in a family of four. The boot space alone is also huge - and you would have no trouble at all fitting in the whole family.

Also, if you are looking to own the vRS as a business car, then go and sign on the dotted line right 'now' - before they all sell out.

To sum up

I like the Octavia vRS because its practical, fun to drive, has bags of torque and plenty of space on the inside. Big Skoda smiles here then.

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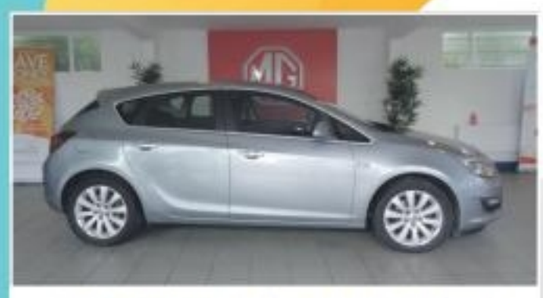

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Mazda Scrappage Upgrade Plan is available to private customers registering a new Mazda model with CO2 emissions of up to 135g/km between 1 March 2018 and 31 March 2018 and is conditional on the scrappage of the part-exchange vehicle, of any make, that has been registered to the current keeper for a minimum of 60 days and was first registered on or before 31 December 2010. Vehicles registered under this offer must be registered to the same name or address as the current keeper of the scrappage vehicle. Retail sales only, subject to availability at participating dealers. T&C apply. ~3.9% APR Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all Mazda2, Mazda3, Mazda6, Mazda CX-3 and Mazda CX-5 models that emit up to 135g/km of CO_2. All models with CO2 emissions of more than 135g/km are excluded. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Channel Islands excluded. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability.

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Model Shown: Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £17,615 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC petrol ordered from 01 February 2018 to 31 March 2018 and registered by 31 March 2018. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. 0% APR representative Honda Aspirations (PCP): Maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Excess mileage charge includes VAT at current rate. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Johnsons Cars Limited are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Financial Services is a trading name of Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL a company registered at Companies House No 03289418. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years £599 Servicing: Please visit www.honda.co.uk/cars/offers. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766. VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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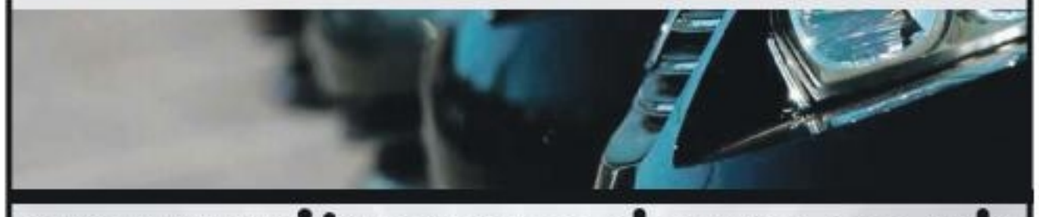

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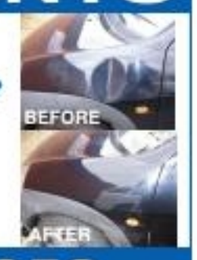

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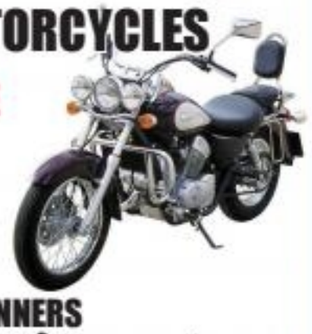

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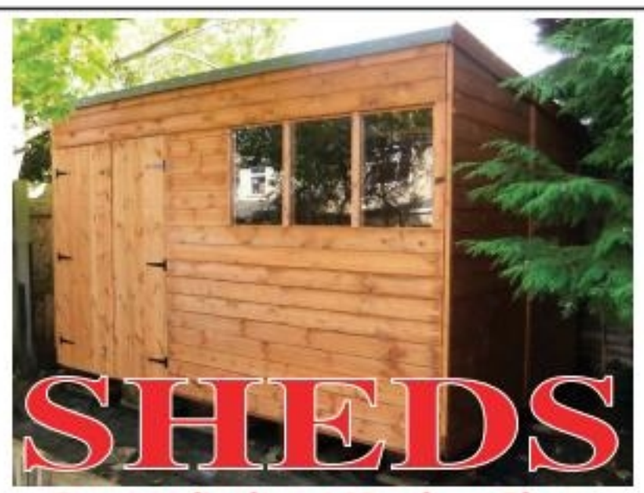

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Hard day at the office for Haas

By George Welch

F1 - Haas/Renault

EXTRA pitstop practice will be scheduled for Haas after a pair of 'heartbreaking' unsafe releases put both cars out of the first Formula 1 race of the season.

Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean were running fourth and fifth respectively at the Australian GP, putting the Banbury-based side on course to score their best-ever result since joining the sport in 2016.

The duo built on a mightily impressive qualifying, have lined up P5 and P6 on the grid after Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo's grid penalty, locking out the third row.

However, in a catastrophic few moments at Albert Park, both cars retired on the lap following their respective pit stops, losing them a potential 22 points, which is just shy of half their entire tally in 2017.

Team principal Guenther Steiner confirmed the wheels 'weren't tied on correctly' and the cars had to be stopped.

He said: "As much as you don't want to say it, it's racing. It happens, even though it shouldn't. It's almost unbelievable to have this in one race, and on two cars, while running fourth and fifth."

To add insult to injury, Haas were given a €10,000 fine for the unsafe release of their cars from the pit stop.

The team, who look to have improved massively on their last two years' eight-placed finishes, have vowed to bounce back.

Romain Grosjean heads down the pit lane, where it all went wrong for Haas. Picture: *Haas F1*

Magnussen, the first Haas driver to retire, said: "It's a very tough one to swallow for the whole team. To have both cars not finishing is just heartbreaking. I'm beyond disappointed."

Grosjean, who was forced to call it a day just three laps later, added: "We'll come back stronger as we always do. It's a lot of points lost today, but if we can repeat that performance over and over, we're going to forget this very quickly."

It was also a tough weekend for Renault's Carlos Sainz who appeared the faster of the Enstone team's drivers but struggled with sickness.

He salvaged a point but team-mate Nico Hulkenberg, who benefitted from the Haas drop-outs, scooped six more with a seventh-placed finish.

The next race is in Sakhir for the Bahrain GP on April 8.

Afternoon to forget for both Stroll and Sirotkin

F1 - Williams

LANCE Stroll says Williams is 'surviving' rather than racing after a pointless start to the 2018 Formula 1 season in the Australian Grand Prix.

The Canadian teenager pulled no punches, voicing his frustration about a nightmare opening weekend in Melbourne for the Grove-based side.

Stroll finished Sunday's race at Albert Park 14th of the 15 finishers, behind rookie Charles Leclerc in a supposedly inferior Sauber.

He said: "We are just basically trying to get the car to the end of the race instead of racing.

"There was a lot going on today with big issues that cost us a lot of race time. I hope we can find the solution before [the next race in] Bahrain."

The 19-year-old added: "We were in the wrong mode on the first lap and that is the reason [Force India's Esteban] Ocon got me.

"We also have none of the extra power we need for the safety car restart which is where I lost the place to Leclerc."

Team-mate Sergey Sirotkin meanwhile retired from his first grand prix after five laps with a brake problem, and the suspected cause is an early contender for most bizarre retirement explanation of the year – a plastic sandwich bag.

Chief technical officer Paddy Lowe described the race as 'an afternoon to forget'.

Lance Stroll finished 14th out of 15 cars and admitted they were 'just trying to get to the end of the race'
Picture: *Williams Martini Racing*

Michael Ridge takes the line out ball

Honours even as clubs push for promotion

Rugby

HONOURS were shared in the Oxfordshire derby as Wheatley and Littlemore played out a dramatic 19-19 draw at the Oxford Academy.

The push for promotion is still on for both clubs who were competing for second in the league with Tadley hot on the heels of both sides.

Current second-placed favourites Littlemore were under pressure early on as Wheatley took the lead within two minutes.

Wheatley winger Toby Butler finished off the move of the game after a stunning team try following a quick break down the left flank.

Sanda Mpanza and James Neal were the star performers in an almost faultless first half with the biggest blow coming via a knee injury forcing Michael Ridge off the field.

The second half proved a more even contest as Littlemore frustrated the purple men after a dominant first half.

Wheatley eventually succumbed to a succession of penalties and a minute before time, Littlemore crashed over with the conversion to secure the draw.

The result leaves Littlemore in second on 52 points, 15 ahead of Wheatley in fourth.

Elsewhere, bottom club Abingdon thrashed Tadley 22-0 ahead of trips to Wheatley on April 7 and Littlemore on April 14.

Wheatley's star performer Sanda Mpanza thwarts a Littlemore attack
Pictures: *Matt Gibb*

Teenage rider jumps to victory with clear round

Showjumping

AN Oxfordshire rider landed a top title at the British Showjumping Spring Championships 2018 earlier this month.

Oliver Fletcher, from Faringdon, became the Winter 1.35m Champion with Graham Fletcher's 15-year-old bay gelding, Caicos.

Oliver, 15, picked up the title with the sole jump-off clear in the final draw at the showjumping championship held at Addington Manor, Buckingham.

Fences fell with alarming regularity as riders chased the handsome £1,500 first prize, but it was Oliver, the youngest in the class, who produced a penalty-free round to take home the glory.

Oliver said: "There is more pressure to jump clear than to go against the clock and chase a target, but pressure brings out the best in me, it makes me ride better."

Caicos previously evented with Paul Tapner before turning to showjumping and was ridden by Alfie Bradstock until Oliver took over in September last year.

Oliver added: "He has all the scope in the world, has the right mentality and wants to do the job.

"I rode him for an hour this morning. In the first, the first three jumps I need lots of leg, after that, no leg at all."

Nine of 21 starters posted first round clears over the 12-fence track designed by London 2012 course designers Bob Ellis and Nigel Jess.

Oxfordshire teenager Oliver Fletcher and horse Caicos took top prize in the Winter 1.35m Final

Sport

Stars shine brightest as they win league title

Ice Hockey

ECSTATIC fans celebrated wildly as Oxford City Stars swept aside nearest rivals Solent Devils to tie up the South One title with a game to spare.

A full house of supporters in yellow watched their heroes beat the Devils 3-1 in a high-pressure match at Oxpens Road on Sunday.

The clash was the first meeting between the two sides, but it was the most important game of the year for both teams.

With the Devils only one point behind the Stars in the table and with both team's last two games being a double-header against each other, the stakes could not have been higher.

A win for the Stars in regulation would be enough to crown them South One champions – and that is exactly what they did.

A goal in each period from Darren Elliott (15 minutes), Matthew Lawday (29) and Joe Edwards (49) put Kenny Redmond's side in the driving seat.

Oxford City Stars celebrate their win
Picture: *Paul Foster*

Solent skipper Alex Cole grabbed a consolation with less than four minutes remaining but, by then, the win was already secured for the hosts.

The title win is unsurprising given the Stars have shone brightly all season, losing just twice and scoring double figures on eight occasions.

The return fixture in Gosport on April 7 is inconsequential to both sides ahead of the play-offs.

Oxfordshire leagues results

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 24 March
Oxford City 0-2 Dartford

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 24 March
Banbury United 3-1 St Ives

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 24 March
Thame United 2-3 **Egham Town**
Tuesday 27 March
Moneyfields 4-1 **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 24 March
Bishops Cleave 1-0 **Kidlington**
Slimbridge 3-6 **Didcot Town**
Tuesday 27 March
Bishops Cleave 1-5 **Didcot Town**
Mangotsfield United 1-3 **North Leigh**
Wednesday 28 March
Kidlington v Shortwood United

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 24 March
Wantage Town 2-0 Flackwell Heath
Tuesday 27 March
Oxford City Nomads 0-1 Brimscombe & Thrupp

Darts put City through the Hoops

By George Welch

Oxford City

OXFORD City came out second best to title chasers Dartford in a 2-0 defeat at Marsh Lane on Saturday.

Clinical finishing from Elliot Bradbrook in the first half put the away side ahead before Tom Murphy doubled Darts' advantage to strike the decisive blow late on in the game.

Mo Fofana lined up in midfield for the Hoops in place of Godfrey Poku who was unavailable due to an injury picked up at Park View Road following the win at Welling United.

The midfielder dislocated his knee but did not suffer any significant ligament damage and is expected to be out for another few weeks.

Poku's replacement suffered a heavy challenge of his own in the first three minutes which produced the only booking of the game, dished out to Darts player Alex Brown.

The deadlock was broken two minutes later when Bradbrook struck from the edge of the box to send the ball sailing past the outstretched hand of Craig King into the corner.

Matt Paterson and Sam Nombe both had good chances before the half was over but could not find a way through to goal.

Darts looked the better team as the second half got under way, almost doubling their lead three minutes in with Bradbrook nearly nabbing his second but for a goal line clearance from Eddie Jones.

On 68 minutes, Fofana made way for the attacking instincts of Zac McEachran, whose corner soon after caused mayhem at the back for Dartford. But the tie was decided when Murphy's curled effort from the left flank found the far corner on 75 minutes.

Manager Mark Jones said: "I can't criticise the boys for the way they tried to go about things today, we dominated the game really. I'm not quite sure how we haven't scored; we hit the woodwork twice and had two or three very good chances. Sometimes in football you have to take it on the chin, but I thought the performance was very, very good from us."

Sam Nombe leaps to reach the ball but couldn't convert a good chance
Picture: *Michael Allen*

The result leaves the Hoops 16th in National League South on 31 points ahead of tomorrow's (Friday) trip to play-off hopef uls Braintree Town.

Eleven away goals move Didcot back into the top six

Evo Stik round-up

DIDCOT Town moved back into the top six in the Evo-Stik West after scoring 11 goals in two away games.

The Railwaymen secured their first away win of 2018 on Saturday in a nine-goal thriller at Slimbridge.

George Reid put the visitors ahead inside six minutes, before Morgan Williams (30 minutes), Adam Learoyd (37) and a second for Reid (45) ensured an emphatic 4-0 half time lead.

Felipe Barcelos (67) and Callum McNish (77) completed the rout to end the contest at 6-3.

Didcot followed up their astonishing win by bagging five more in a 5-1 thumping at bottom club Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday.

McNish and Williams were again on the scoresheet alongside Stuart Cattell and a George Jeacock penalty.

Elsewhere, Kidlington were on the wrong side of a 1-0 loss at Bishops Cleeve on Saturday, while 18th placed North Leigh are 10 points clear of the bottom after coming away from Mangotsfield United with a 3-1 win.

North Leigh visit Barnstaple Town on Saturday, Didcot host Cinderford and Kidlington take on Taunton.

In the Evo-Stik East, 11th placed Thame United suffered back-to-back defeats, falling to a 3-2 home defeat on Saturday to Egham Town before a trip to Moneyfiels on Tuesday resulted in a 4-1 loss. Thame host bottom club Arlesey Town on Saturday.

Freds give themselves promotion chance with victory

Hellenic round-up

WANTAGE Town kept their slim promotion chances alive with a vital 2-0 win at home to fellow high-flyers Flackwell Heath

Saturday's win, secured by two first half Harvey Scholes goals, was payback for the Freds' last defeat, a 4-0 loss in February's reverse fixture against Flackwell.

After an even opening, Town took the lead with their first attempt on goal in the 10th minute, Scholes firing home on the edge of the area.

The winger doubled the hosts' advantage with a perfect free kick just before the break.

Flackwell dominated the final 20 minutes but failed to break a deep Wantage defence, even when Town substitute Matt Cheetham was sent off for two rash tackles inside two minutes in the 84 minute.

Third-placed Wantage, who have since re-signed last season's top scorer Mark Francis from Salisbury for the run-in, still have it all to do to break into the top two with five games remaining.

They are two points behind second-placed Thatcham Town having played two games more and Bracknell Town, a place and four points lower, have four games in hand on the south Oxfordshire side.

Oxford City Nomads lost 1-0 at home to Brimscombe & Thrupp on Tuesday having pit in two good performances in the preceding games.

Abingdon United did not have a game.

Self strikes to set up the seventh win

Banbury United

IN-FORM Banbury United stretched their unbeaten run to seven games with a 3-1 win at home to St Ives Town.

A first half Jack Self goal and strikes from Ricky Johnson and Tom Winters in the final 20 minutes secured the victory for a fourth win in sevem games.

Particularly impressed by winger Winters, United boss Mike Ford was delighted to make it back-to-back wins at home.

He told Puritans Radio: "That was Tom Winters' best game for us for a long time and he deserved his goal. We always need to get the ball to Tom early so he can deliver it."

The former Oxford City boss added: "It was a good win, these games are always difficult and we've lost or drawn ones like these at home this season.

"In general, we dominated the game apart from small periods when we were poor.

"We weren't fantastic and we need to be better on the ball because that suits the type of players we have here.

"As the game wore on we got better when St Ives were looking to nick a draw."

The Puritans (9th), who last tasted defeat in January, travel to Frome Town (12th) on Saturday and entertain Stratford Town (14th) at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on Monday.

Red card game changer after a promising start

By George Welch

Portsmouth 3

Kal Naismith 5, Brett Pitman 69, 79

Oxford United 0

Alex Mowatt 62

Attendance: 17,892 (1,050 away)

ALEX Mowatt missed a penalty and was sent off as Karl Robinson's Oxford United reign began with a 3-0 defeat at play-off chasing Portsmouth on Sunday.

A moment of madness from the Barnsley loanee cost his side dearly when he lashed out at Pompey's Nathan Thompson, who provoked the midfielder after missing a second half spot kick.

United fell behind to an early corner when Rob Dickie lost his header and Ashley Smith-Brown lost his man, allowing Kal Naismith to tap home from close range

Pompey dominated the first quarter of the game, but there were positives for an Oxford side that improved as the half progressed.

James Henry pinged the crossbar as United grew into the game, before Luke McGhee in the Pompey goal thwarted Malachi Napa and Dickie had a header cleared agonisingly off the line.

Pressure on the home goal increased in the second half and, on the hour mark, Dickie was hurled down by Matt Clarke in the Portsmouth area.

But Mowatt got his angles wrong and, as unlucky as he was, the ball shot off the inside of the post and away from danger.

And then chaos broke out.

Wind-up-merchant Thompson goaded Mowatt menacingly for his miss and, in response, the 23-year-old lashed out at the former Swindon Town defender.

A melee ensued and, once tempers had calmed down, Mowatt was given his marching orders. Mowatt will serve a three-match ban and has since apologised.

It was a key moment in the game as United, despite going behind early on, were the dominant side and worth at least a point.

The hopes of 10-man Oxford crumbled moments later when Brett Pitman smashed in a wicked Jemal Lowe cross from close range.

Portsmouth, without manager Kenny Jackett who was seeing to a family illness, were well on the way to their first home win of 2018 when the same duo linked up again, Pitman thumping home for his second goal of the afternoon and the 19th of a prolific campaign.

Oxford fizzled out after the second goal and defeat leaves them in 16th place, five places and five points above the relegation zone.

'Decision cost the team'

PANTOMIME villain Alex Mowatt described his moment of madness as 'the worst 60 seconds' of his life.

The creative midfielder apologised to his team but will miss games against Scunthorpe United (tomorrow), Shrewsbury Town (Monday) and Oldham Athletic (April 7) after lashing out at Nathan Thompson having missed a vital penalty.

"We were the better team by a mile and that stupid decision has cost the team," he said.

"He's got in my face and I've reacted which I shouldn't have done. He shouldn't be in my face.

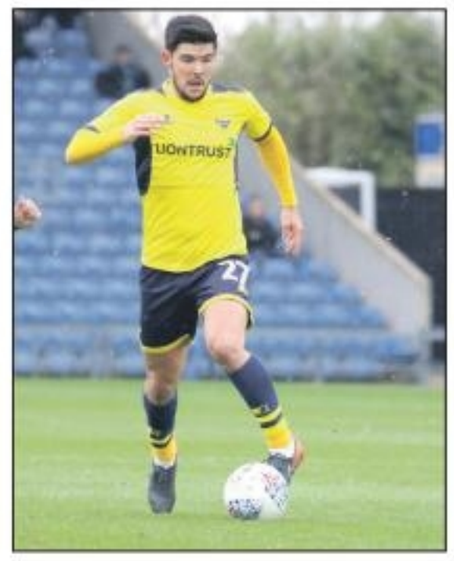
"I've hit the post and it's probably the worst 60 seconds of my life."

The dismissal was the 23-year-old's third of his career. It was his first in yellow but the loanee also saw red while playing for parent club Barnsley and Leeds United.

Mowatt added: "I've apologised to the staff and the players. It's out of character for me and I should never have reacted [in that way].

"We were in control of the game and I'm disappointed with myself for missing the penalty in the first place."

The Doncaster man has scored three goals in 29 Oxford appearances in all competitions, 10 of which have been from the bench.



Alex Mowatt, pictured against Peterborough United earlier this month, has received a three-match ban
Picture: *Steve Daniels*

Robbo fuming after penalty incident

A REELING Karl Robinson blasted Portsmouth's Nathan Thompson as a 'disgrace' and slated the referee for 'one of the biggest mistakes in a long time' for not sending the player off for goading Alex Mowatt.

The new United boss was angered that Thompson was not handed a second yellow for getting in the face of Mowatt, who missed a second half penalty.

Robinson said: "I'm fuming. The referee has made one of the biggest mistakes I've seen in a long time.

"Thompson got booked in the first half. What he did was an absolute disgrace.

"My player should not react the way he did. He will be reprimanded and spoken to internally but what he did to my player and then not to get booked for that…

"If one of my players did that I would be more disappointed with that reaction than what Alex did."

Robinson described Mowatt's actions as 'unacceptable', adding: "I don't think professional footballers should do what they did."

Mowatt's loss of control and the 3-0 defeat aside, the 37-year-old was upbeat following an encouraging performance.

"We were the better team by a long way," he said.

"Take away the first five minutes and that's a very good performance against a good team. We dominated every aspect of the pitch, had the most chances and you wouldn't have known there was a difference in the league table at all."

New badge marks 125 years

A NEW club badge has been unveiled by Oxford United to mark the 125th anniversary.

The club say the stripes in the background have been added to echo the team's success in the 1980s when they won back-to-back promotions while wearing a pinstripe kit.

The badge will feature on the club's new home kit which will be worn for the first time in the final home game of this season against Rochdale.

The SkyBet League One club was formed in October 1893 as Headington United.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Shrewsbury Town	38	23	78
2	Wigan Athletic	36	45	77
3	Blackburn Rovers	37	35	76
4	Rotherham United	38	18	65
5	Scunthorpe United	39	9	59
6	Peterborough United	38	12	57
7	Plymouth Argyle	38	0	57
8	Portsmouth	38	1	55
9	Charlton Athletic	37	0	55
10	Bradford City	37	-5	53
11	Bristol Rovers	38	-3	51
12	Southend United	38	-10	50
13	Gillingham	37	1	49
14	Blackpool	38	-4	47
15	Doncaster Rovers	37	1	46
16	Oxford United	37	-5	45
17	Fleetwood Town	38	-7	45
18	Walsall	38	-10	44
19	AFC Wimbledon	38	-12	42
20	Oldham Athletic	36	-12	40
21	Northampton Town	39	-27	40
22	MK Dons	38	-14	39
23	Rochdale	36	-10	35
24	Bury	38	-26	30

Spectacular goal not enough for victory

OUFCW

CHLOE Chivers, *pictured*, scored a spectacular goal but missed a penalty as a rusty Oxford United Women's side were well beaten 4-2 by Millwall Lionesses on Sunday.

The defeat at Oxford City's Court Place Farm, United's first game in over a month, was their third WSL2 loss in a row.

A first half Rianna Dean double put the visiting Lionesses in command before Kayleigh Hines pulled one back for the U's shortly before half time.

And the hosts should have been level at the break only for Sarah Quantrill in the Millwall goal to keep out a Chivers spot kick.

The away side made the result safe with 20 minutes to go when Amber Gaylor picked out substitute Charlie Devlin, who twisted past Riva Casley to bend a shot into the far corner.

Devlin then added a brace of her own on 84 minutes with a lovely chip over Demi Lambourne in the Oxford goal.

But the real fireworks went off in added time when the impressive Chivers blasted in a brilliant goal from a narrow angle for an Oxford consolation.

Sixth-placed United play twice in the next four days. They host seventh-placed London Bees tonight (Thursday) before travelling to New Ferens Park on Sunday to take on Durham Women (4th).

CHERWELL Sport

More sport inside: U's: Sending off controversy | Ice Hockey: Stars shine brightest to win title | F1: Tough going for Oxfordshire teams in first race

Robbo hoping for good Friday in first home game

By George Welch

NEW Oxford United boss Karl Robinson admitted taking over at the Kassam Stadium was a 'no brainer'.

The 37-year-old swapped the Charlton Athletic dugout for United's last Thursday, bringing to an end an exhausting 59-day managerial hunt to replace Pep Clotet.

Robinson met the players for the first time on Friday, just two days before taking charge of his first game, a 3-0 defeat at Portsmouth in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

Following his long-awaited announcement, the Scouser was quick to play down the hype following owner Sumrith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth's assertion that the new man would possess a real 'wow' factor.

Nevertheless, Robinson is eager to get going.

He said: "When it [the job] came up it was a no brainer for me. I'm really excited.

"Oxford is a fantastic club and the new chairman is very ambitious to continue the great work that has been going on here over the last few years. It's a football club that's been run exceptionally well.

"I have seen the plans for the new training ground, heard where the club sees itself going, and I have seen what a talented squad we already have here.

"My job now is to help those players get back to winning games regularly between now and the end of the season."

Robinson, who won promotion from League One and reached the third-tier play-offs twice with MK Dons during a six-year stint in Buckinghamshire, has signed a deal until summer 2020.

He added: "There's the prospect of what may be a really exciting year for the club next year following the recent takeover.

"It was an offer that really appealed once you sat down and thought about it. It's an exciting challenge with the opportunity to come here and build something."

Robinson wants to bring in his own coaching staff but stressed he is under no pressure to dispose of any of his current colleagues.

He takes charge of his first home game – again in front of the Sky Sports cameras – against play-off side Scunthorpe United tomorrow (Good Friday), 12.45pm kick off. A difficult run of fixtures ends with a trip to third-placed Shrewsbury Town on Easter Monday.

Bright young manager will 'do a great job for us'

AMBITIOUS Oxford United chairman and owner Sumrith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth said the club has landed 'one of the brightest young managers in the game' in Karl Robinson.

Having admitted his takeover complicated the club's search to replace Pep Clotet, the Thai businessman finally appointed Charlton Athletic boss Robinson last Thursday, nearly two months after the Spaniard's sacking.

Tiger said: "We are really pleased that Karl has agreed to join the club.

"He is one of the brightest young managers in the game. People forget that he is still only 37 because he has been manager in over 450 games already.

"He knows this league and the one above, he knows the players and I am sure he will do a great job for us."

He added: "The Oxford fans have been very patient but I hope they agree that this is a very exciting appointment for the club."

Robinson confirmed he felt he had to step aside at Charlton while they go through an uncertain takeover process.

"There are so many different circumstances that could happen there," he said.

"I offered to resign as I didn't think it was right for people to come in without their own man in charge.

"But, I really loved every minute of my time there and it's a great football club."

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